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I have always believed that setting stretch targets and difficult goals is the best way to inspire greater effort. My Government has commenced the implementation of many schemes to achieve these goals.

- Selvi J Jayalalithaa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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Front Wrapper:

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** distributed the Government's special Pongal Gift pack to ration card holders who are eligible to buy rice, at a Government function held in Coonoor in the Nilgiris District on 4.1.2014.

‘National change will pave the way for more people-friendly schemes’

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa‘s speech at a function in Nilgiris District while inaugurating Pongal Gift distribution, welfare assistance and other new developmental schemes on 4.1.2014 (English Translation)

Hon’ble Minister for Co-operation and dear brother Thiru. Sellur K. Raju, who delivered an address in this pleasant function, Hon’ble Minister for Food and dear brother Thiru. Kamaraj, Hon’ble Minister for Handloom and Textiles and dear brother Dr. S. Sundararaj, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu Government, who delivered the welcome address, Hon’ble Ministers, Members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly, Representatives of Local Bodies, Thiru. P. Sankar, the Nilgiris District Collector who is to propose a vote of thanks, respected elders,

Ladies who are the very Gods who sustain me,

My dear siblings who are Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar MGR’s blood unto blood and dearer to me than my own life...

At the outset I offer my affectionate respects to all of you.

Nilgiris District lies at the junction of the Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala state borders; it is hailed as the ‘Queen of Mountains’ and is an internationally renowned tourist spot. In such a district, in Coonoor, I am extremely happy to participate in a Government function, lay the foundation for several new schemes, declare open the schemes that have been executed, distribute welfare assistance and address you all.

I am also to inaugurate the annual distribution of dhotis and sarees in connection with the Tamil festival Pongal and the distribution of the special Pongal gift package scheme to enable Tamils to celebrate the festival grandly.

The dhoti - saree distribution scheme was launched by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar MGR in 1983 to light up the lives of the landless agricultural labour, following the failure of the South West and North East Monsoons in 1982 and the consequent drought. Production of these clothes for this scheme was handed over to handloom weavers so as to improve their livelihood. To improve the quality of the clothes distributed under this scheme, I ordered in 2003, their production with a mixture of polyester yarn and 40 count cotton yarn. Accordingly, every year quality dhoti-sarees are distributed to the poor and the down-trodden for the Pongal festival.

This year, I have ordered the distribution of polycot sarees that cater to the fancy of women in design and colour. These qualitatively improved sarees will have as their warp and weft 60 count coloured cotton yarn and 80/34 thick coloured polyester yarn and 150 thick cotlook coloured polyester yarn for the border. By distributing these qualitatively improved sarees, the Government incurs an additional expenditure of Rs. 73.44 crore. In sum, the scheme for distribution of dhothi-saree at no cost, is implemented this year at a cost of Rs. 486.36 crore. It provides employment to 15,000 handloom weavers and 50,000 power loom workers. I am extremely happy to inaugurate this scheme that benefits 3,45,29,000 persons - 1,73,24,000 women and 1,72,05,000 men. In Nilgiris District alone 4,23,402 persons are benefited - 2,11,701 women and 2,11,701men.

Last year, I distributed a special Pongal gift package taking into account the monsoon failure, drought due to Karnataka’s refusal

to release Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery waters and the crop damage. The package consisted of one kilo of raw rice, one kilo sugar and a cash amount of Rs. 100/- and 1.84 crore family card holders benefited. This year too, I have ordered a similar gift package to rice card holders so that all can celebrate the festival excellently. I am extremely happy to inaugurate this scheme today.

Without minding the financial position of Tamil Nadu, I have distributed this special Pongal gift package at a cost of Rs. 281 crore. This is because I wish that all Tamils should celebrate Pongal happily. My aim is to provide help in full, in time and after ascertaining the needs. People are on my side since I extend such help. I am on their side. That is why you have put me in a position from where I can help you.

I am reminded of an incident that took place during the civil war in America. Abraham Lincoln was the President then. In that difficult period, an elderly woman approached Abraham Lincoln and said by way of consoling him: "President, don't worry for anything, God is on our side. He will save us".

Abraham Lincoln replied: "Mom! Thanks for your loving words. I know well that God will protect us. That is His duty. But you should know what I think. More than God remaining on our side, my constant thought is whether we are on the side of God."

Likewise, when some are day-dreaming that they can entice the people to their side by slandering my Government and by undertaking false propaganda against it, all the activities of the Government are only revolving round the people. The people too support the Government staunchly.

I am constantly exploring avenues through which I can do good to the people.

Public interest is like a flute; self-interest is like a football. Air propels them both. The flute gets kissed; the football is kicked. Why? The football gets kicked as it retains the air it has received to itself. The flute, on the other hand, spreads the air it has received in the form of music to others and hence gets kissed. Selfish people will be ignored. Public-spirited people will be revered. As for me, there is only one interest. That is the interest of the people of Tamil Nadu. That is why,

you, my beloved people, are with me always. I, too, am with you.

In this function today, I am immensely happy to lay the foundation for works costing Rs.74,85,82,000/-, inaugurate the works that have been executed at a cost of Rs. 21,35,29,000/-, and distribute welfare assistance to the tune of Rs. 18,23,29,000/- to 2,17,509 beneficiaries. Also, I am extremely happy to distribute the special Pongal gift package costing Rs. 3,54,06,000/- to 2,21,290 families in Nilgiris District. Totally, I have disbursed to Nilgiris District, works and welfare assistance to the tune of Rs. 117,98,46,000/-".

A few of the works I have laid the foundation for in this function are:-

1. Setting up of a Tribals Cultural Centre at a cost of Rs. 10.12 crore to acquaint the people about the culture of tribes; among other things it will have a modern auditorium, an exhibition hall, a museum and permanent sales stalls;

2. Taking up infrastructure development and technological works at the Ooty Frozen Semen Production Station and procurement of implements, all at a cost of Rs. 6.46 crore for increasing the production of Frozen semen sticks.

3. Upgradation of the Primary Health Centre at Kerada Mattam Panchayat in Kodanadu Panchayat Union, into a 30-bed PHC at a cost of Rs. 1.39 crore for extending improved health facilities to the hilly people residing in the Union;

4. Locating a new bus stand with a commercial complex in Nelliyalam Municipality at a cost of Rs. 2.27 crore;

5. Launching the Jagadhala Drinking Water Development scheme at a cost of Rs. 1.64 crore;

6. Setting up a new industrial co-operative tea factory at Nanjanaadu village at a cost of Rs. 5 crore;

7. Setting up a tea agency common facility centre at Mettupalayam at a cost of Rs. 15 crore;

8. Construction of additional buildings at the Nilgiris District Collectorate at a cost of Rs. 27 crore;

9. I have laid the foundation for various works including that for the offices of 3 Village Administrative Officers and for tenements for 2 firka land surveyors, costing Rs. 58.32 lakh.

In Nilgiris District, the most important

among the summer resorts, "Ooty Boat House" and "Doddapetta Observatory" are the high points of tourist attraction. Taking this into account, today I have laid the foundation for development works for the Ooty Boat house costing Rs. 4.03 crore and for the Doddapetta Observatory costing Rs. 17.50 lakh.

Tourists visiting Ooty go to Doddapetta to enjoy scenic beauty. To help tourists know about tea, a Tea Park will be set up in Doddapetta region at a cost of Rs. 79 lakh for which I have laid the foundation today.

Similarly, I like to point out some of the important works that have been completed and declared open today. They are:-

1. The new building constructed at a cost of Rs. 48 lakh for the Surgical Block at the Ooty Government Headquarters Hospital;

2. The Anganwadi Centres constructed at the old Aravankadu region and at Sakthi Nagar within the Kakkuchi Panchayat, costing Rs. 11 lakh;

3. Library buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 10 lakh in Adikaratti and Thampatti regions;

4. Modern bus shelters set up at Manjur, Naduvattam and Annamalai areas at a cost of Rs. 15 lakh;

5. The residential building for the forest ranger constructed at Masinagudi at a cost of Rs. 9 lakh;

6. Korakundah Water Tower set up at a cost of Rs. 6.35 lakh;

7. The Governor Grove Forest Ranger office buildings constructed at the Fernhill forest complex at a cost of Rs. 12.35 lakh;

8. The sewage treatment plant constructed at a cost of Rs. 1 crore at the anterior of Ooty lake;

9. The maternity ward, kitchen and other buildings constructed at Manjur Government hospital at a cost of Rs. 1,19,50,000/-;

10. The mortuary at the Kothagiri Government hospital and the Pediatrics Intensive Care Unit at Gudalur Government hospital constructed at a cost of Rs. 38.85 lakh;

11. 4 class rooms and 2 workers' rooms constructed at the constituent Arts and Science College of Bharathiar University at a cost of Rs. 54 lakh;

12. A new school building at a cost of Rs. 7.50 lakh at the Moopar Kaadu Tribal area in Coonoor Panchayat Union;

13. New Panchayat office buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 34.25 lakh;

14. Kitchens constructed at a cost of Rs. 5 lakh;

15. Four integrated sanitary complexes for men in 4 Panchayat unions in Nilgiris District at a cost of Rs. 16 lakh;

16. Kundha Taluk office constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.09 crore;

17. Classrooms, drinking water facility, toilet facility and compound walls in Government high schools at Mullimalai in Kundha taluk, at Pakkana and Nellakottai in Pandalur taluk at a cost of Rs. 1,59,11,000/-;

18. A branch library building constructed at Coonoor at a cost of Rs. 17 lakh.

Apart from these, welfare assistance to the extent of Rs. 18,23,29,000/- is to be distributed to 2,17,509 beneficiaries under various schemes such as the Chief Minister Green House Scheme for houses with solar power, Indira Gandhi Rozghar Scheme, scheme to distribute mixie, grinder, and induction stove at no cost, marriage assistance scheme for indigent women, petrol scooter under the differently abled scheme, subsidy scheme for environment-friendly houses, laptops for ITI students and dhoti-saree distribution scheme. While I will present the assistance personally on this dais to 45 beneficiaries as a token, Hon'ble Ministers and Government officials will distribute the welfare assistance to the rest of the beneficiaries today itself.

Still, there are many duties and services to be discharged towards the people of Tamil Nadu and the State itself. If they are to be carried out, changes at national level should take place. Expressing my confidence that such changes will take place with your support, I take leave of you, hailing Anna Naamam and Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Naamam and conveying my appreciation to Thiru. P. Sankar, Nilgiris District Collector, other Government Employees and the police for organising this excellent function.

Nandri; Vanakkam. ■

Midway through tenure, Tamil Nadu Government gears up for Vision 2023

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF **SELVI J JAYALALITHAA**, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU AT THE CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT COLLECTORS AND POLICE OFFICERS ON 11.12.2013

Hon'ble Ministers,
Chief Secretary,
Director General of Police,
Secretaries to Government,
Senior Police Officers,
Commissioners of Police,
Heads of Departments,
District Collectors,
Superintendents of Police, and
Other officers of the Government,

1. I am very happy to be present amongst you today on the occasion of the Third Annual Conference of Collectors and Police Officers, since my Government assumed office in May 2011. We are at a mid-way point through the tenure of this Government and it presents us with a good opportunity to take stock of the remarkable progress we have made so far and plan our future course of action. It is also an opportunity to reinvigorate and re-energize ourselves to sustain the high levels of performance and achievement and realize our dream of making Tamil Nadu the Numero Uno State in India.

2. When I look back at the State's achievements over the past two and a half years, there is a sense of fulfilment about what has been achieved in every sphere of administration. This Government has formulated and launched a number of schemes for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden in order to provide them

the basic requirements of food, clothing and shelter, schemes for the development of women, children and other vulnerable sections of Society, for the development of infrastructure in order to enhance investment and growth, to enhance the quality of education in the State, to provide better health care, and to improve skills to boost employment. The State has consistently won awards and accolades at the national level for good performance in a range of schemes and sectors. All of this has been enabled by three factors – the vision and leadership that has been provided, the exemplary and flawless maintenance of public order, which forms the bedrock for effective administration for the people to prosper and finally the dedicated efforts of Government officials at various levels.

3. However, we should not rest on our laurels or become complacent. The same level of performance must continue to be maintained and in fact, has to be stepped up even further. The time horizon for realising the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023, which I had unveiled is now just 10 years away. The major outcomes that I had envisioned for the State to reach by 2023 are by no means, easy goals that can be achieved with a business as usual approach. I have always believed that setting stretch targets and difficult goals is the best way to inspire greater effort. My Government has commenced the implementation of many schemes to achieve these goals. I must stress here that the role of the field officers is extremely crucial in converting that vision into reality.

4. The first and most vital function of the State is the maintenance of public order and ensuring the protection of its citizens. The ability of my Government to understand and empathise with the just and fair expectations of the people of the State on critical issues, has been one of the most important reasons for the proper maintenance of public order in Tamil Nadu. It requires the administration at the local level to be sensitive to ground realities. District Administration in Tamil Nadu is being run in this manner, thanks to close supervision and monitoring from above and positive response to public expectations that manifests itself from below.

5. So far as the maintenance of law and order is concerned, it is a matter of pride and satisfaction to all of us present here that Tamil Nadu has largely been free of communal, left wing extremist, and religious fundamentalist violence. This

is because I have given the Police Force and the District Administration a free hand and unstinting support in maintaining law and order. I would like to reiterate that the Government will not spare anyone who tries to whip up communal passions and create caste tensions. The Police and the District Administration have been given a clear and unambiguous mandate to put down anti-social elements with an iron hand.

6. Although persistent attempts have been made by Maoists to strike roots in the State, they have been denied a foothold by ceaseless vigilance, particularly in the tri-junction area between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, where intelligence inputs had indicated that Naxalites were likely to try to establish their presence. Similarly, firm action has been taken to quell the activities of some front organizations espousing left wing extremist ideology and attempting to build up a mass base. One primary reason for the frustration of left wing extremists at not succeeding in their mission is that the Administration in the State is responsive to the needs of the public. People do not have to look up to anti-constitutional forces for redressal of genuine grievances, when the political and administrative machineries are able to provide relief. In tackling the menace of left wing extremism an understanding and responsive administration and developmental measures have a big role in supplementing Police action.

7. The humanitarian problem of Sri Lankan Tamils being treated as second class citizens in their own land in post ethnic conflict Sri Lanka and failure to hold the Sri Lankan regime to account for acts of genocide in the closing stages of the civil war are major emotive issues in our State. The Government of India's insensitive handling of the issue continues to compound the problem. However, the fallout of this serious issue within Tamil Nadu has been effectively handled through deft and tactful measures.

8. The continuing unprovoked, dastardly and murderous attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy upon innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu, while in pursuit of their livelihood in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay and their indiscriminate arrests, have agitated the entire fisherfolk community in Tamil Nadu. I have repeatedly written to the Prime Minister protesting against these attacks and seeking his intervention to end them. I have also written several times to the Prime Minister emphasizing that a permanent solution to the problem can be

found only by retrieving Indian sovereignty over the island of Kachatheevu, which was permanently ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 without the requisite mandate of Parliament. I have taken up the matter in my personal capacity by filing a Writ Petition before the Supreme Court of India in 2008. The Government of Tamil Nadu has subsequently impleaded itself through the Revenue Department, after a Resolution was passed in the Legislative Assembly in 2011. The stand of my Government is that Katchatheevu has been a part of India, geographically, culturally and historically and needs to be retrieved, keeping in view the livelihood interests and security of lakhs of Tamil Nadu fishermen. I am hopeful of a positive verdict in this matter in the Supreme Court of India.

9. I have always been passionate about securing the goal of true gender equity in Tamil Nadu. As a result of my efforts, Tamil Nadu has emerged as a State where women feel safe and secure. Impelled by the need to have an even more effective and stronger framework to protect women from sexual violence, I had announced a fresh set of measures - a bold and innovative '**Thirteen Point Plan**'. As more and more instances of sexual violence are being reported across the Country, it is very important to continue to keep Tamil Nadu free of this scourge. I request all of you to be extremely vigilant in this aspect and take all precautionary steps to prevent the occurrence of such incidents in our State.

10. Earlier this year, when Tamil Nadu faced drought conditions due to the failure of the Monsoons, and the intransigence of Karnataka in not releasing our rightful share of Cauvery water, I took the decision to announce Special Relief Packages for the farmers in the Delta and non-Delta areas, at norms much higher than those prescribed by the Government of India. Funds were liberally sanctioned for various drought mitigation measures, including the provision of drinking water in rural and urban areas, steps to tackle fodder scarcity and taking up works to provide employment to people in drought affected areas. An amount of Rs. 1,614 crores was sanctioned to enable the farmers in the drought affected areas to tide over the crisis. I am happy to note that the Collectors took up the task of providing the drought relief in right earnest and ensured that the package effectively reached all the affected persons.

11. My Government is one that speedily responds to its citizens whenever they are in distress, wherever they may be.

An example of this was the massive rescue effort launched by us to bring back hundreds of pilgrims from Tamil Nadu who were stranded in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand, after the torrential rains and catastrophic floods and landslides in May, 2013.

12. At this point of time, we are still facing uncertain weather conditions. The receipt of the North-East Monsoon rains have so far been much below the expected level. I am hopeful that we will still receive more rain as the season is yet to end. **However, as pro-active administrators, you should be fully geared up to swing into action in order to counter any kind of unforeseen weather related distress**.

13. In an effort to revive growth in the Agriculture Sector, the plan allocation for agriculture and allied activities has been enhanced by 32 per cent to 3340 crore rupees. The strategy is to intervene in critical areas in need of investment, like agricultural infrastructure and timely supply of adequate inputs, so as to unlock the potential of this sector and to empower the farmer to increase both farm productivity and farm income. Along with the existing ongoing landmark schemes like System of Rice Intensification, Transplanted Redgram, Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative and Precision Farming to improve productivity, this Government has taken up many new initiatives. These include the Food Grain Mission to double food grain production by 2015-2016, enhancing locally available irrigation sources through the creation of 70,000 farm ponds, provision of mobile oil engines with sprinklers and rain guns on a rental basis, providing solar powered pump sets with forward linkages to micro irrigation and improved technologies, farm mechanization on a massive scale to alleviate the shortage of farm labour and establishment of aggregation centres for perishable horticulture commodities on a Hub and Spoke model with comprehensive post harvest processing and value addition facilities. The agenda notes contain more details about these interventions and I look forward to hearing from the Collectors about the steps taken by them to effectively implement the Government's initiatives.

14. In order to augment farm income, the increasing focus will be on allied activities. I have launched a number of important initiatives in the Animal Husbandry Sector, including the free distribution of milch cows, as well as the distribution of goats

and sheep to poor families. I expect that the free milch animal distribution scheme will significantly step up the procurement of milk by the co-operatives. Collectors should monitor this aspect closely and tackle problems such as fodder shortage and the outbreak of diseases.

15. Tamil Nadu's Universal Public Distribution System is a model food security programme which has been commended both within India and elsewhere. This is a very critical programme, which requires constant vigil and monitoring so as to ensure that the benefits continue to reach the deserving persons and to plug leakages. I urge the Collectors to ensure that the process of collection of bio-metric information through the National Population Register is expedited and the State is in a position to issue smart cards to all families in the State at the earliest.

16. As part of the many measures taken by this Government to combat price rise, 40 Farm Fresh Consumer Outlets have been opened in Chennai. Consumers are now able to buy vegetables at reasonable prices and at the same time farmers get both an assured market and remunerative prices. Already, 2482 metric tonnes of vegetables valued at 7.38 crore rupees have been sold through these Outlets. To ensure sustainable vegetable supply, 10,493 farmers have been provided crop loans of 55.22 crore rupees for the cultivation of vegetables. I request the District Collectors to open Farm Fresh Outlets at appropriate locations in their Districts for the benefit of the public.

17. I congratulate all the Collectors and Police Officers present here on the smooth completion of the five phases of elections to the 21,027 co-operative institutions in the State in which 2,04,889 persons were elected as Directors of the Boards of the institutions. **This is a historic achievement and will realise the goal of democratizing the functioning of co-operatives in the State**.

18. The rural development schemes designed and undertaken by this Government have set the benchmark for the highest standards of infrastructure and quality service delivery in rural areas which are not found anywhere else in the country. The Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme is a unique first-of-its-kind programme, which provides high quality shelter to the rural poor along with clean energy. The Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme (THAI) is a novel scheme that fulfils the demands of the rural

community for all basic infrastructure needs through micro level planning and ensures the equitable provision of infrastructure at the habitation level. District Collectors must ensure that these schemes are properly implemented with the right selection of beneficiaries and with a convergence approach to magnify the impact.

19. Cities are engines of growth. You are aware that Tamil Nadu is the most urbanized large State in the country. Making our cities livable, attractive and competitive is an area of high priority for my Government. I have sanctioned the Chennai Mega City Development Mission with an annual allocation of 500 crore rupees and the Integrated Urban Development Mission with an annual allocation of 750 crore rupees to fund urban infrastructure. Urban growth will no doubt create jobs and fuel prosperity, but mine is also a compassionate and caring Government. The poor and the vulnerable in the urban areas are at the forefront of my agenda. **The establishment of Amma Unavagams is a revolutionary concept, which has changed the paradigm of nutrition for the poor, just as the Nutritious Midday Meal Programme did when Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR launched it three decades ago in 1982**. The Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission is yet another major initiative of this Government to ensure that the urban poor are able to fully benefit from growth.

20. An "Open Defecation Free State by 2015" is a high priority goal of this Government. The Government has drawn up a three year comprehensive plan and launched the scheme for eradication of open defecation in urban areas since 2011-2012. The scheme will be continued in 2013-2014 with an outlay of 72.60 crore rupees. This scheme is focusing on increasing public toilet facilities and IEC activities to sensitize people about the issue.

21. For rural areas, the unit cost of individual toilets has now been increased to 11,100 rupees per unit. I had started the facility of Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women during 2001 to 2004. These complexes were not maintained between 2006 to 2011 and became dysfunctional. These complexes have been renovated during 2011 and 2012 at a cost of 170 crore rupees. With the success of the scheme of sanitary complexes for women, the Government is now establishing sanitary complexes for men as well. I expect the District Collectors

to play a very important role in ensuring that the goal of an Open Defecation Free State is achieved by 2015.

22. Tamil Nadu has been a front runner in providing Public Health Care for the poor at affordable costs. This Government has launched new landmark initiatives, such as the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme with an annual outlay of 750 crore rupees, which has been a huge success, and the Menstrual Hygiene Programme with an outlay of 55 crore rupees. Assistance under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme has been increased to 12,000 rupees per beneficiary. With its pioneering schemes, sustained efforts and infusion of funds in critical areas, Tamil Nadu has already achieved the Millennium Development Goals of reducing the Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate well ahead of time. The District Collectors should ensure that we continue to achieve improvement in these important Human Development indicators and specifically address challenges found in remote and tribal areas. The State has a wide network of Primary Health Centres, secondary care facilities and tertiary care super specialty hospitals and medical colleges so as to take healthcare services to the remotest corners of the State. The District Collectors should ensure that these facilities are effectively utilised. In addition to addressing the challenges of Non-Communicable diseases on one side, with the clear cut guidelines issued by the Government in preventing, controlling and handling emergent situations, the State has been able to effectively respond to the challenge of vector borne diseases such as dengue. Collectors should ensure that the measures put in place to prevent and control the outbreak of diseases are sustained by effectively co-ordinating with local bodies, different departments and the community.

23. Tamil Nadu has provided the best services and infrastructure to its schools, which has been recognized by the recently published Education Development Index. The Teacher – Pupil ratio in Tamil Nadu stands at 1:27 at the primary and upper primary level which is one of the best in the country. This Government ensures that school going children are provided with text books, note books, other stationery items, school uniforms, transportation facilities and of course the nutritionally enhanced midday meal. The next focus area for the Government is the improvement in the quality of education through a number of measures, so as to ensure that Government funded schools do not lag behind private schools in the provision of teaching learning materials and technology. Focused attention is being given to the weaker sections of Society and education of girls. It would be pertinent to note that, in the past ten years, the gender gap in terms of literacy has been reduced substantially and the Government is committed to completely nullifying illiteracy within ten years. The District Collectors must also ensure that the benefits of Government programmes to promote education amongst the Adi-Dravidars, Tribals, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities are fully realized by them through the effective implementation of the scholarship scheme and by ensuring expeditious construction of new hostel buildings and proper upkeep and maintenance of the hostels.

24. The State's flagship scheme of providing

laptop computers to all higher secondary school and college students has the noble objective of expanding their knowledge and bridging the digital divide. The provision of fans, mixies and grinders to all poor households is mainly focused on relieving the drudgery of women and enabling higher work participation by women. The District Collectors should carefully monitor the distribution of the laptop computers, fans, mixies and grinders and ensure that necessary service facilities are provided.

25. This Government has recently taken a number of initiatives to expand industrial growth to the backward regions of the State, especially in Southern Tamil Nadu. In the coming years, 9 new industrial parks will be created in 9 Southern Districts making available an additional area of 20,650 acres. Special incentives are being extended to industries for establishing new units in these parks with a focus on employment and economic uplift of these Districts. I recently announced a package of measures for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector since this is another high priority area to generate employment. The capital subsidy for plant and machinery of MSMEs has been increased to 25 per cent. The Small Industries Development Corporation will create a land bank of 2000 acres for the MSMEs. A single window system has been established for facilitating business startup procedures. We will also incentivize aggregation of scattered MSMEs into self-contained industrial complexes. The District Collectors have a very important facilitative role to play in the industrial development of their Districts and they should ensure that the necessary land and other clearances are made available to promote industrialization.

26. In the last two Conferences of Collectors and Superintendents of Police, many of you had come up with a number of proposals and made requests for your respective Districts and jurisdictions. After carefully considering these requests, I had made a total of 81 specific announcements at the end of the Conference in 2011, and 346 announcements in 2012, acceding to almost all the requests made by you. **My intention was that you should be afforded the best possible opportunity and given the necessary support to effectively provide good governance in your respective Districts, and to effectively contribute to my Government's agenda for growth development and welfare of the people. I am happy to inform you that, with regard to the 81 announcements made in 2011, the necessary Government orders have been issued. Out of the 346 announcements made in 2012, Government orders have been issued giving effect to 332 announcements.** 8 announcements have been dropped or the implementation postponed because the matters are sub judice. It is the duty of each one of you present here to ensure that the policy intent of these announcements are translated into results on the ground and made meaningful to the people.

27. We have before us a comprehensive and detailed agenda covering many key issues, including the maintenance of law and order, and the whole gamut of developmental programmes. I look forward to constructive deliberations on the items in the agenda. I request each of you to make precise, pointed and succinct presentations. I expect you to benchmark yourselves against the best standards and practices and to live up to the expectations of this Government that truly reflects the aspirations of the people.

Focus on steps to revive economy

OPENING REMARKS OF **SELVI J JAYALALITHAA,**
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU
AT THE CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT COLLECTORS
HELD ON 12.12.2013

Hon'ble Ministers,

Chief Secretary,

Secretaries to Government and
Heads of Departments,

District Collectors and other Officers,

1. We have had very fruitful discussions on several issues concerning the maintenance of Law and Order yesterday. Today, we turn to the development agenda. This presents us with a good opportunity to take stock of the progress in implementation of the plethora of new initiatives and schemes launched by my Government and the success achieved in terms of impacting the lives of the common people and fuelling growth and prosperity.

2. The slowdown in the national economy has affected the growth performance of the State economy as well. The severe drought in the State during 2012 impacted growth, particularly in the agriculture and allied activities sector. We need to focus on taking all efforts to revive economic growth and put it back on a high growth trajectory. I am quite

confident that with the sustained and focussed efforts that we are undertaking across all sectors the State would be able to achieve the growth target for 2013-2014.

3. The growth model that I have adopted for Tamil Nadu is to achieve equitable development through inclusive growth. The emphasis is on the word “inclusive”. It is the duty of the State to ensure that no one is excluded from the development process and this means that each one of you has a special responsibility to expand the reach of the Government schemes and programmes to the most vulnerable and marginalised sections of Society –- Adi Dravidars, Tribals, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Women, Children and the disabled.

4. In this context, I am reminded of how a scholar of Public Administration described the institution of the District Collector, and I quote, “The general image of the Collector in the people’s mind is not that of the coercive apparatus of Government but the benevolent arm of the Government extended to the people. He/She is primarily a welfare officer. It is he/she who is expected to provide relief to people affected by natural calamities, local troubles and even in personal difficulties.” This is the image I would expect each one of you to live up to.

5. I look forward to a focused and meaningful discussion on the important items on the agenda and to learn from you as to how the benefits of the unprecedented number of new initiatives and schemes taken up by my Government have reached all the intended beneficiaries. The items listed out in the Agenda may now be taken up sequentially for discussion. ■

Kudos to the Police with a Caveat

Opening remarks of Selvi J Jayalalithaa
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Conference of Police Officers held on 13.12.2013

Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Chief Secretary,
Principal Secretary, Home,
Director General of Police,
Senior Police Officers,
District Superintendents of Police and
Delegates attending this Conference,

During the Joint Session we had elaborate and fruitful discussions on law and order maintenance which draws upon the co-ordinated efforts of District Collectors and Police Officers. Though important in itself, law and order is only a portion of Police responsibilities. Policing encompasses a wide variety of other tasks like crime prevention, crime detection, traffic regulation, security of VIPs, security of vital installations, disaster management, and enforcement of social legislation of different kinds.

The Policeman / Policewoman has to play three major roles. As a guardian of Society, he/she is the sentry at the gates protecting the community against dangerous criminals. Secondly, as an instrument of the law, he / she, is an umpire required to apply impersonally a set of rules to make possible orderly social transactions in the community. Thirdly, as a public servant, he / she is a friend-in-need who performs duties which are not part of law enforcement such as finding lost children or pushing stranded cars.

No wonder, a learned person said,"The citizen expects Police Officers to have the wisdom of Solomon; the strength of Samson; the patience of Job; the leadership of Moses; the kindness of the Good Samaritan," and so on and so forth.

Such lofty and sometimes unrealistic expectations place a heavy burden on the shoulders of the Police. But, the Tamil Nadu Police endowed with professional freedom under my Government have always risen to the challenges. The recent arrest of Fakruddin

followed by the operation at Puthur in which two of his associates were arrested without any loss of life was a noteworthy achievement. I have personally congratulated 260 personnel giving away cash rewards ranging from 1 lakh rupees to 15 lakh rupees, apart from the grant of Accelerated Promotion to 20 Police personnel.

While such sensational operations grab headlines there are also numerous instances where your hard toil is taken for granted by the public for example, during the visits of dignitaries facing high levels of threat or anniversary functions of caste leaders or major temple festivals. But, I am aware of the elaborate preparations made and the efforts put in by the Police to make these events go off peacefully. I know the hardships faced by Police personnel. This is why my Government has been particular in taking care of the well being of individual Policemen, welfare of the Force as a whole and the wellness of the Police as a Department.

I also take this opportunity to share some of my priorities with you. When you arrest nine lakh people, an odd death in custody here and there may appear to be statistically negligible. But a dead man is not a mere statistic for his loved ones. Instances are reported of suspects dying after suddenly developing illness while in a Police station or committing suicide while in custody. When the Police are expected to protect the lives of citizens in their homes, work places and in public, it would be a travesty of justice if a citizen dies within the precincts of a Police Station.

Ease of mobility and communication no doubt changes the character of crime. While once the Police were concerned about inter-district criminals, today inter-State and even inter-national criminals, tend to take centre stage. New forms of crime keep surfacing. It is not enough that offenders in heinous crimes are arrested. It must be ensured that bail applications are strongly opposed, cases charge-sheeted quickly and expeditious trial ensured.

I hope today's discussions will bring to the fore not only the problems but also effective and lasting solutions.

Successful Conference leads to manifold positive steps

Concluding remarks of **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the Conference of Collectors and Police officers held on 13.12.2013

Hon'ble Ministers,

Chief Secretary,

Principal Secretary, Home,

Director General of Police,

Secretaries to Government,

Heads of Departments,

Senior Police Officers,

Commissioners of Police,

District Collectors,

Superintendents of Police and other Officers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

The Conference of District Collectors and Police Officers is an important event in the administrative calendar of the State Government. This Conference provides an opportunity for the District Collectors and Police officers to highlight the progress in implementation of various policy initiatives and schemes announced by the Government. The field officers use this occasion to bring up issues faced by them at the field level in the implementation of policies and schemes. It is also a forum in which the officers learn from each others' efforts and successes. They articulate the specific requirements of their Districts. Such issues, brought to the immediate attention of the highest level of Government can be resolved without delay. For the Government, the Conference is also an occasion to spell out and explain the priorities of the Government and to effectively guide the District Collectors and Police officers in their functioning. Undoubtedly such discussions substantially enhance administrative effectiveness at various levels.

Judged by these yardsticks, the well-organized Conference this year has been a resounding and grand success. We have had very useful and constructive discussions on several issues concerning the maintenance of Law and Order and different welfare and development schemes implemented by my Government over the last three days.

For me personally, as the Chief Minister of the State, it has been very gratifying to learn how well each one of you has been performing in taking forward my vision for the State. The close and effective co-ordination with which the District Administration and the Police have been functioning is truly commendable and has undoubtedly contributed to the effective maintenance of public order in the State. The free hand which I have provided to maintain law and order has been effectively used by all of you to keep the State incident free and peaceful.

I appreciate the painstaking efforts put in by the Collectors in preparing for the Conference. In particular, the audio-visual presentations were a vindication. They brought out very clearly the benefits that were being actually extended to the people under the different development programmes and welfare schemes announced by my Government. The diligence, dedication and sincerity each one of you, have brought to your work is an important contribution to the effective implementation of my Government's policy initiatives and schemes.

The District Collectors have placed before me certain proposals for their districts. The number and nature of requests made by the District Collectors clearly shows how well they have assessed the needs of the district and the pulse of the people. Considerable hard work and careful thought have gone into these proposals. They also display your commitment to the amelioration of the hardships faced by the people.

The Police Officers have displayed the professional commitment and dedication which contribute to making the Tamil Nadu Police the best Police Force in the country. Leadership includes many traits. Concern for the welfare of those whom we lead is a very important trait. I was particularly touched by the gesture of some of the young Police officers who in their presentations during the Joint Conference made requests for the provision of basic amenities including drinking water for the Police personnel and their families. This clearly displays how much they care for the welfare of the Police force under their command. I really appreciate the fine leadership qualities that these officers have displayed.

In the last two years based on your requests, I have sanctioned a number of new initiatives. As I pointed out in my inaugural address, my intention is to afford each of you the best possible opportunity and give you the necessary support to provide good governance in your Districts and further my Government's development and welfare agenda. This year as well, based on the proposals you have placed before me, I will be announcing the different initiatives that will be taken up by my Government.

You also must not forget that the resources at the disposal of the Government are not unlimited. We have to perforce prioritize how to deploy the resources that are available. As field officers you must ensure that funds sanctioned are utilized effectively. Assets should be created speedily. Services should be delivered efficiently and expeditiously. It is your duty to ensure that the intended outcomes of all these initiatives are achieved. This is the duty we owe the people in our democracy.

Let me again compliment and congratulate each of you on all the good work that you have done this year. Do not cease your vigil or relent in your efforts. As I mentioned on the first day, we should not rest on our laurels or become complacent. Let this be an occasion to rededicate ourselves to effectively deliver

Government schemes and initiatives to the people who are the ultimate masters in our great democracy. I exhort you to perform even better in the coming year.

Now, I am happy to make the following announcements which have emerged as the outcome of the deliberations of this three day Conference.

Announcements

1. New Buildings will be sanctioned for Vadavalli, Annur and Madukkarai Police Stations in Coimbatore District.
2. A Camp office-cum-residence building will be sanctioned for D.S.P., Perur in Coimbatore District.
3. A new Police Sub-division will be created in Karumathampatti, Coimbatore District.
4. Police personnel who have completed 40 years of age will be provided Master health check-up once in a year free of cost at Government Hospitals.
5. New barracks for AR will be sanctioned for Coimbatore City.
6. A new Building will be sanctioned for Bhuvanagiri Police Station in Cuddalore District.
7. An office-cum-residence building will be sanctioned for DSP, Thittakudi in Cuddalore District.
8. A new office building will be sanctioned for Jayamkondam Traffic Police Station in Ariyalur District.
9. A post of Special Branch Inspector for Ariyalur District will be created by re-deployment.
10. Strength of police personnel in Prohibition Enforcement Wing in Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Villupuram Districts will be augmented by way of re-deployment.
11. A new office building will be sanctioned for Dindigul Rural Sub Division.
12. A new building will be sanctioned for In-service Training Centre in Dindigul.
13. A new building will be sanctioned for the Silaiman Police Station in Madurai District.
14. An office-cum-residence building will be sanctioned for D.S.P., Oomachikulam in Madurai District.
15. 6 new bore wells will be sunk in the Police quarters in Madurai City to meet the water requirements of Police Personnel.
16. Deputy Commissioners of Police in all Cities will be given magisterial powers under 107, 108, 110 Cr. P.C., as in the case of Chennai City Police.
17. A water lorry will be sanctioned for Madurai City Police for providing water to police quarters.
18. A new Taluk Hospital will be sanctioned for Tiruverumbur in Trichirappalli District.
19. A new building will be sanctioned for Srirangam L&O, Crime and Traffic Police Stations in Trichy City.
20. A post of Traffic Inspector will be sanctioned for Srirangam in Trichy City.
21. Barracks for A.R. police personnel will be sanctioned for Trichy City.
22. Prohibition Enforcement Wing Units will be sanctioned for Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur Districts by re-deployment.
23. Dormitories for accommodating 150 men and 50 women police personnel will be constructed at Melmalayanur.
24. High mast lights will be provided in 35 accident prone areas in the National and State Highways in Villupuram District.
25. A new building will be sanctioned for Sevvur Police Station in Tiruppur District.

26. An office-cum-residence building will be sanctioned for D.S.P., Avinashi in Tiruppur District.

27. A Kennel will be constructed for the dog squad in Tiruppur.

28. Thali, Moolanur and Gudimangalam Police Stations in Tiruppur District now headed by Sub Inspectors will be upgraded to the level of Inspectors.

29. Land for construction of office building for the Tiruppur Police Commissionarate will be provided.

30. A new building will be sanctioned for Tiruppur North Police Station, Traffic Police Station and All Women Police Station.

31. Police Quarters will be sanctioned for the police personnel in Tiruppur Commissionerate.

32. A Link road connecting ring road at KM 18/2 Sunnampu Kurampudur and NHAI bypass (NH 67) at Emur – Pudur at km 208/8 of NH 67 (via) Koyampalli – Melapalayam at Karur will be sanctioned.

33. A connecting road at km 299/6 of NH 7 (Sukkaliyur) and NH 67 road at km 224/2 (Thaneerpandal) at Karur will be sanctioned.

34. High level bridge connecting Unniyur in Trichirappalli District and Nerur in Karur District across the river Cauvery will be sanctioned.

35. A new building for Velliyani Police Station will be sanctioned.

36. A new building will be sanctioned for the Rural Sub Divisional Office, Karur.

37. New Buildings for Salem Rural Sub Division and Vazhapadi Sub Division will be sanctioned.

38. New four wheel drive vehicles will be provided for the Yercaud and Karumandurai Inspectors of Police in Salem District.

39. A new building for Melattur Police Station in Thanjavur District will be sanctioned.

40. A new building will be sanctioned for Kabistalam Police Station in Thanjavur District, which is now functioning in a rented building.

41. Land for Karungalpalayam Police Station in Erode District will be provided.

42. A new building for the Office of DSP, Perundurai in Erode District will be sanctioned.

43. Provision of groynes at Mandaikadupudur in Kanniyakumari District will be sanctioned to prevent sea erosion.

44. A new Police Sub Division will be formed at Vandalur by bifurcating Chengalpattu Sub Division.

45. The post of Sub Inspector of Police, Traffic, will be upgraded as Inspector of Police, Traffic in Kancheepuram District.

46. Barracks will be provided at Maraimalai Nagar in Kancheepuram District.

47. Police Standing Orders will be amended re-defining grave offences pertaining to burglary and theft. Burglary over Rs. 2 lakhs in value and Theft over Rs. 3 lakhs in value will be treated as grave offence.

48. Western by-pass road connecting NH7 Tirunelveli – Ambasamudram Road, Tirunelveli - Tenkasi Road and Tirunelveli – Sankarankoil Road will be sanctioned.

49. High level bridge across Tamirabarani River parallel to Old Bridge at 150/2 of Madurai – Kanniyakumari Road

connecting link between Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai will be sanctioned.

50. An electric crematorium at Nambithalaivan in Tirunelveli District will be sanctioned.

51. Central Bus Stand for Tiruvannamalai will be sanctioned.

52. By-pass road at Vettavalam Town Panchayat will be sanctioned.

53. High level bridge across the Kamandalnaganathi at Padavedu Panchayat in Tiruvannamalai District will be sanctioned.

54. Car Parks will be provided in all the nine major roads leading to Tiruvannamalai.

55. Quarters will be constructed for the police personnel of Pallipalayam and Kumarapalayam Police Stations in Namakkal District.

56. Compound wall for A.R. Complex, Pudukkottai will be provided.

57. A new building will be sanctioned for Pon Amaravathi Police Station in Pudukkottai District.

58. A new building will be sanctioned for the All Women Police Station, Tirumayam in Pudukkottai District.

59. A new building will be sanctioned for Kottaipatinam Sub Divisional Office.

60. A new building will be sanctioned for Jeeyarpuram All Women Police Station.

61. A new building will be sanctioned for Tiruverumbur Traffic Police Station.

62. New buildings will be sanctioned for Edaiyur and Thevangudi Police Stations in Tiruvarur District.

63. New buildings will be sanctioned for Vedaranyam and Vettaikaraniruppu Police Stations in Nagapattinam District.

64. A Police Officer in each Police Station will be designated as Liaison Officer to interact with the Panchayat President and others in the village to collect information on law and order issues in all districts.

65. A Camp Office-cum-Residence building will be sanctioned for DSP, Tiruvadanai in Ramanathapuram District.

66. A Sewage Treatment Plant in A.R. Complex, Ramanathapuram will be established by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation.

67. Barracks will be provided at Hosur in Krishnagiri District.

68. A new building will be sanctioned for Uthangarai Sub Divisional Office in Krishnagiri District.

69. A new building will be sanctioned for Soolagiri Police Station in Krishnagiri District.

70. An Arts & Science College will be established at Veppanthattai in Perambalur District.

71. A Camp Office-cum-residence building will be sanctioned for the Sub Divisional Office at Mangalamedu in Perambalur District.

72. A new building will be sanctioned for V. Kalattur Police Station in Perambalur District.

73. Additional posts will be sanctioned to augment the strength in the Police Stations in Greater Chennai.

74. In ‘Hit and Run’ cases, a solatium of Rs. 50,000 is given for death and Rs. 10,000 for grievous injury. This will be enhanced to Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh respectively.

75. Full pants with full sleeve shirts for boys and Salwar Kameez with over coat for girls studying in Standards 1st to 5th in the Nilgiris District will be provided.

76. A Water Supply Scheme to Coonoor Municipality will be formulated with Emerald Dam as source.

77. Grants under the THAI Scheme will be enhanced for the Village Panchayats having more than 50 habitations.

78. Two additional Mobile Medical Units will be sanctioned for the Nilgiris District.

79. Hill Allowance for Govt. employees will be increased to Rs. 1,500 per month.

80. Winter Allowance for Govt. employees will be increased to Rs. 500 per month.

81. 25 Staff Quarters will be constructed in the Nilgiris District for Group A and Group B Officers.

82. Infrastructure Facilities will be provided to improve tourism at “Top Station” in Bodi Taluk in Theni District.

83. A 110/22 KV Sub Station will be sanctioned for Kandamanur Vilaku, near Andipatti Medical College Hospital in Theni District.

84. Check Dams will be constructed across the Vaigai River at Vaaliparai and Govindanagaram.

85. Amma Unavagam will be established at Sivagangai Government Medical College Hospital.

86. The Community Centre at Thirupuvanam in Sivagangai District will be upgraded into Taluk Headquarters Hospital.

87. An Accident and Emergency Block will be set up in the Government Sivagangai Medical College Hospital.

88. A Government School Girls’ Hostel will be established in Kalayarkoil, Sivagangai Taluk.

89. A High level bridge will be constructed at KM 2/8 of Kannangudi – Kookudi road across Virusuzhi River in Sivagangai District.

90. A 110 / 22 KV Sub Station will be sanctioned for Amaravathypudur, Karaikudi Taluk in Sivagangai District.

91. A 110 / 22 KV Sub Station will be sanctioned for Poosalakudi in Kannangudi Block in Sivagangai District.

92. 150 Community Borewells with 15 HP pumpsets will be sanctioned for Sivagangai District.

93. A new Bridge will be constructed at KM 2/4 of Velarenthal-Kodikarai Road across Nattarkal in Kalayarkoil Block in Sivagangai District.

94. A new High Level Bridge will be constructed across Manimuthar River in Kurunthampattu-Oogampatti Road in Kurunthampattu Panchayat, Sivagangai District.

95. Town Settlement in Sivagangai Municipality will be introduced.

96. A road from Thoothukudi to Vanchi Maniyachi Junction will be formed.

97. Madurai – Thoothukudi Road from KM 130/4 to 133/2 will be widened.

98. The Rail Over Bridge at KM 5/4 of Thoothukudi-Quilon Road will be widened.

99. A Respiratory Medical Unit for occupational lung disease will be established in Thoothukudi District.

100. A new programme will be sanctioned to reduce higher order birth in Coastal areas of Thoothukudi District.

101. A special programme will be sanctioned for control of Malaria and other Vector Borne diseases in endemic coastal villages in Thoothukudi District.

102. Check Dam will be constructed at Tamiraparani River near Mukkani.

103. Underground Sewerage System will be sanctioned for Poonamallee Municipality in Tiruvallur District.

104. A new Modern Integrated Bus Stand will be established at Tiruvallur.

105. A Check Dam will be constructed across Kosasthalaiyar river. A Channel will be provided to supply water to Veera Raghava Perumal Tank in Tiruvallur.

106. Tenements at Thiruchinakuppam in Tiruvallur District will be reconstructed.

107. A Drain cum Foot Path will be constructed in the pilgrim centres at Tiruvallur and Tiruttani.

108. A study will be undertaken for the permanent stability for bar mouth with groynes for Pulicat lake.

109. Taluk Office buildings will be constructed for the newly created Tiruvottriyur and Maduravoyal Taluks.

110. Four Transaction sheds will be provided at Ammoor Regulated Market Committee in Vellore District.

111. Rural Youth Groups will be promoted for farm mechanization in Vellore District.

112. Taluk Office buildings will be constructed for the newly created Natrampalli and Anaicut Taluks in Vellore District.

113. By-pass road to Aruppukottai Town on its western area to connect existing four lane NH 45B will be sanctioned.

114. Tiruthangal Primary Health Centre will be upgraded as Taluk Headquarters Hospital.

115. A new Rail Over Bridge will be constructed across the Sivakasi-Tenkasi and Sivakasi – Srivilliputhur State Highways Road within the limit of Anaiyur Panchayat in Sivakasi Town in Virudhunagar District.

116. A new Railway Over Bridge will be constructed across the Rajapalayam - Tenkasi Broad gauge railway line crossing Rajapalayam – Alangulam State Highways road within the limits of Rajapalayam Municipal Town.

117. A High level Bridge will be constructed at KM 0/8 of Thandarai – Eraiyur Road across Cheyyar river in Tiruvannamalai District.

118. A Cause way will be constructed at Othalavadi Panchayat in Polur taluk at 1/8 Kms in Tiruvannamalai District.

119. Infrastructure facilities will be provided to compost yard at Agaram Sibbandi in Tiruvannamalai District.

120. 8 tanks in Tiruvarur District will be renovated.

121. Desilting work will be taken up in Kamalalayam Tank in Tiruvarur Town.

122. Moonaru Thalaippu of Needamangalam Taluk in Tiruvarur District will be developed as a Tourist spot.

123. New Primary Health Centre at R.Kombi Village in Vedasandur Taluk will be formed.

124. CWSS to 124 villages in Palani Union, 218 villages in Thopampatti Union, Palani Municipality, Keeranur and Neikkarpatti Town Panchayats will be sanctioned.

125. Drinking water to the Batalakundu Town Panchayat from Vaigai Dam will be provided.

126. 2 major check dams at Kodaganar River will be constructed in Dindigul District.

127. 3 major check dams at Santhanavarthani river will be constructed in Dindigul District.

128. Roads in and around Palani Municipal area, Ayakudi and Balasumutram town panchayats will be improved and widened.

129. Roads in and around Dindigul Municipal area will be improved and widened.

130. Road from Boothakudi (Natham Taluk) to Dindigul for the benefit of Palani pedestrian pilgrims will be improved and widened.

131. Building for newly bifurcated Taluk – Dindigul (East) at Dindigul will be constructed.

132. A new office building will be constructed for the Krishnagiri Taluk Office.

133. A High Level Bridge will be constructed at Pathakotta in Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District.

134. The post of Taluk Supply Officer in Hosur Taluk will be upgraded to the level of Tahsildar.

135. A new BC Hostel will be sanctioned in Hosur, Krishnagiri District for College Girls Students.

136. A new College Girls' Hostel will be sanctioned in Krishnagiri District for Adi Dravidar students.

137. A Hostel for Adi Dravidar Girls will be established at Thali in Krishnagiri District.

138. Banana Cultivation – Ripening chamber for Banana using ethelyne gas will be constructed at Thiruvaiyaru.

139. Basic amenities and infrastructure development works in Kumbakonam Municipality will be undertaken for Mahamaham.

140. Civic Amenities in the Thanjavur Corporation will be improved.

141. A Bridge will be constructed at Kallanai across the Coleroon river.

142. A Girls College Hostel will be established in Orathanad, Thanjavur District.

143. A Bio-methonation Plant using water hyacinth and IPOMEA will be sanctioned for Thanjavur District.

144. A new taluk office Building will be constructed for the newly created Budalur Taluk in Thanjavur District.

145. Renovation work will be undertaken for restoration and preservation of heritage buildings in Pudukottai District.

146. Revenue Sub Divisional Office and quarters will be constructed in Pudukottai District.

147. Thirumayam – Virachilai – Panayapatti road from 0/0 km – 12/0 km will be reconstructed.

148. Aranthangi – Kammangadu road from 0/0 km to 9/2 km will be reconstructed.

149. Pulivalam – Sengeerai Road and Pulivalam – Virachilai Road in Pudukottai District will be widened and improved.

150. Five Cashew Processing Units will be established in Ariyalur District.

151. Four Bulk Cooler Units with a capacity of 5,000 litres each will be established in Ariyalur District.

152. A Compost Yard will be established in Jeyankondam Municipality in Ariyalur District.

153. A building will be constructed for the Elementary School at Koppiliyankudikadu in Ariyalur Block.

154. A new building will be sanctioned for Panchayat Union Primary School at Kudisal in Ariyalur Block.

155. A new building will be sanctioned for Panchayat Union Middle School at Kallakudi in Ariyalur Block.

156. A Bridge will be constructed across Vellar river at Kottaikadu in Ariyalur District.

157. 22 Km. Road from Sendurai to Kottaikadu connecting Virudhachalam – Thozhuthur Road will be rebuilt.

158. Facilities will be improved in the Bird Sanctuary at Karaivetti Village in Thirumanur Block in Ariyalur District.

159. A Godown with a capacity of 50,000 MT will be constructed in Mayiladuthurai in Nagapattinam District.

160. Feeding charges for the inmates in orphanages will be enhanced from Rs. 450/- to Rs. 750/- per month on par with BC and ADW Hostels.

161. 44 Reverse Osmosis Units will be put up to tackle the water shortage in Nagapattinam.

162. 1,200 Drinking Water Ooranies will be renovated in Ramanathapuram District.

163. A new building will be sanctioned for Nursing School and Hostel in Ramanathapuram District.

164. Necessary funds will be sanctioned for anti-sea erosion works in Rameswaram Town, Seeniyappa Dargah, Mullimunai and Karangudu villages.

165. A Circuit House will be sanctioned for Rameswaram.

166. A Fishing Harbour will be sanctioned for Rameswaram.

167. Fish Landing Centres will be constructed at Dhanushkodi, T.Mariyur, Pamban, Muguntharayarchatram, Thangachimadam and Vedhalai.

168. 755 Panchayat Union Tanks and 437 Ex. Zamin Tanks in Ramanathapuram District will be renovated to the standards of PWD Tanks.

169. An Integrated Market Complex will be constructed for chilly in Ramanathapuram District.

170. A By-pass Road will be sanctioned for Kamudhi Town in Ramanathapuram District.

171. Feasibility Study will be undertaken for establishment of an Integrated Bus Terminus at Gandhipuram, Coimbatore District.

172. Feasibility Study will be undertaken for Mono Rail in Coimbatore City.

173. Check dams will be constructed in six places in Coimbatore District for artificial recharge.

174. A flyover will be constructed in Pollachi Municipality.

175. Taluk Office Buildings will be sanctioned for newly created Taluks viz. Perur and Madukkarai.

176. Additional Godown at Theroor for Paddy with capacity of 1000 MT storage

will be constructed in Kanniyakumari District.

177. Additional Godown at Manavalakurichi for Paddy with capacity of 500 MT storage will be constructed in Kanniyakumari District.

178. Main Circuit House and Bharathi Guest House in Kanniyakumari will be improved and renovated.

179. By-pass to Suchindrum Town with 1 major bridge, 19 culverts, 3.55 km new 2 lane road will be formed in Kanniyakumari District.

180. Spices complex in Thovalai Taluk will be setup.

181. Anaikarai – Aruvikavai bridge across Paraliyar river will be constructed.

182. Kadayal-Pechiparai bridge at Chakarapani Thottipalam across Thamiraparani river will be constructed.

183. New office buildings will be constructed for Chidambaram Taluk Office and Sub Collector's office.

184. A new taluk office building will be constructed for the newly created Veppur Taluk.

185. A High level bridge will be constructed at km 3/8 of Thittakudi – Sirupakkam road.

186. Artificial Recharge Structures will be sanctioned in 10 places in Trichirappalli District.

187. Tanks, Anaicuts and Supply channels will be renovated in four places in Trichirappalli District.

188. Sanction will be accorded for repairs, renovation and restoration of tanks in six places in Trichirappalli District.

189. A scheme for conservation of Aquatic Eco Systems in Thuraiyur Small Tank in Tiruchirappalli District will be formulated.

190. Tiruchirappalli – Namakkal Road, Thuraiyur – Perambalur Road, and Musiri-Thuraiyur-Athur Road in Trichirappalli District will be improved.

191. Investigation will be taken up for Combined Water Supply Scheme for Thuraiyur, Thathanyangarpettai and Uppiliyapuram covering 293 habitations.

192. Investigation will be taken up for Combined Water Supply Scheme for Marungapuri and Vaiyampatti covering 135 habitations in Tirchirappalli District.

193. New buildings will be sanctioned for five new Taluk offices at Chennai.

194. Vehicles will be sanctioned for 10 Social Security Scheme Tahsildars at Chennai.

195. Sub-surface dykes across Palar River at Palur Village in Chengalpet Taluk will be constructed.

196. Trauma care ward in Government Head Quarters Hospital, Kancheepuram will be formed.

197. Investigation will be taken up for Coastal erosion control in Kancheepuram District.

198. Underground Sewerage System will be sanctioned for Dharmapuri Municipality.

199. A Canal will be constructed for diversion of surplus flood water of Chinnar River from Senganbasuvanthalav Tank to feed 10 Tanks in Palacode Taluk.

200. A Canal will be constructed for diversion of flood water of Bettamugilalam Pallam to Kesergulihalla Reservoir in Palacode Taluk.

201. Primary Health Centres in Valavanthi, Malliakarai, Vadugapathy and Chittor will be upgraded as 30 bedded hospitals.

202. New Primary Health Centres will be established in Kootathupatti of Ayothiyapattinam Block, Mattiayampatti of Thamangalam Block, Pachanmpatti of Omalur Block, Sowriyur of Nangavalli Block and Soolankurichi of Pethanaickenpalayam Block in Salem District.

203. New Office Building will be constructed for Salem and Mettur Taluk Offices.

204. Basic Infrastructure facilities will be provided for the schools in Vadugapatti, Vellar, Karipatti and Veppampoondi in Salem District.

205. Seed Godowns will be constructed at Panamarathupatti and Thalaivasal in Salem District.

206. Fertiliser Control Laboratory will be constructed at Seelanaickenpatti in Salem District.

207. Road from Yercaud to Danishpet will be completed.

208. Cold Storage will be sanctioned in Vazhapadi Taluk.

209. Sentharapatti Tank will be developed as a drinking water source.

210. Link Road will be laid between Yercaud and Kondaiyanoor.

211. Avarai Village in Yercaud Taluk will be fully electrified.

212. A new building will be constructed for the newly created Salem (South) and Salem (West) Taluks.

213. Taluk Office Building for newly formed Tiruppur (South) Taluk will be constructed.

214. Taluk Office Building for newly formed Uthukuli Taluk Office will be constructed.

215. High Level Bridge will be constructed to ease traffic congestion opposite to Tiruppur Old Bus Stand.

216. A High Level Bridge will be constructed in Pudhupalapattu – Vadapalapattu across Maniyar River in Villupuram District.

217. A High Level Bridge will be constructed in Mattaparai Road across Mukthar and Maniyar Rivers in Villupuram District.

218. A High Level Bridge will be constructed in Manjaputhur - Periyanayagi Amman Koil road across Manimuktha river in Villupuram District.

219. A High Level Bridge will be constructed in Kaniyamur – Kumbakottai to VP Agaram road in Villupuram District.

220. A High Level Bridge will be constructed at Eduthavainatham – Ambedkar Colony – Kosapadi Road across Muthar in Villupuram District.

221. A High Level Bridge will be constructed in Pudhur – Kumulam Road across Pambar river in Villupuram District.

222. Manampoondi Block will be created by bifurcating Mugaiyur Block in Villupuram District.

223. Kiliyanur Block will be created by bifurcating Vanur Block in Villupuram District.

224. End to end of old NH road from 160/0 km – 162/6 km of Villupuram Urban limit will be widened and improved.

225. Thathikulam – Melmalayanur road in 4/0 km to 8/2 km in Villupuram District will be widened from single lane to Intermediate lane and improved.

226. Valathy – Avalurpet road in Villupuram District will be widened from Intermediate lane to double lane from km 6/4 to 16/4 km.

227. Sathampadi – Kaplampadi road in Villupuram District will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane from 2/2 km to 9/7 km.

228. Gingee – Vadapalai Road in Villupuram District will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane from 8/0 km to 12/8 km.

229. Vadapalai – Thorapadi Road in Villupuram District will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane from 0/0 km to 2/4 km.

230. Thorapadi - Melmalayanur Road in Villupuram District will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane from 0/0 km to 2/0 km.

231. Perumbakkam – Thiruvakkarai – Kodukkur road will be widened from intermediate lane to double lane from 0/0 km to 7/0 km.

232. Tiruvakkarai-Senipattu road will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane from 0/0 km to 0/7 km.

233. A High Level Bridge will be constructed across Sankaraparani river at Rettanai – Marur road in Villupuram District.

234. A High Level Bridge will be constructed across Thondiyar river at Vellimedupettai Mailam Road to Thenputhur in Villupuram District.

235. Kallakurichi – Thiruvannamalai Road from KM 6/6 to 8/0, 13/0 to 13/4 and 14/4 to 23/0 in Villupuram District will be strengthened.

236. Kanchirapalayam – Vellimalai Road from KM 0/0 to 8/2 in Villupuram District will be widened and strengthened from Intermediate lane to double lane.

237. Cuddalore – Thirukoilur – Sankarapuram Road from KM 33/187 to 40/0 in Villupuram District will be strengthened.

238. Virudhachalam – Ulundurpet – Villupuram Road from KM 21/6 to 27/850 in Villupuram District will be strengthened.

239. Mangalampettai – Elavanasurkottai Road from KM 15/8 to 28/4 in Villupuram District will be widened and strengthened from single lane to intermediate lane.

240. Chinnasalem – Koogaiyur Road from KM 2/8 to 12/4 in Villupuram District will be widened and strengthened from single lane to intermediate lane.

241. Thirukoilur – Vettavalam Road from KM 0/0 to 9/6 in Villupuram District will be strengthened.

242. Arakandanallur - Ayandur Road from KM 0/0 to 17/6 in Villupuram District will be widened and strengthened from single lane to intermediate lane.

243. Kandachipuram - Arakandanallur Road from KM 0/0 to 9/2 in Villupuram District will be strengthened.

244. A High Level Bridge will be constructed at Arunkurukki Road across Gedilam river in Villupuram District.

245. Primary Health Centres will be established at Hongalvadi, Sengulam and Kadambur in Erode District.

246. 14 Tanks and 2 Anaicuts in Uppar Nandaiyar and Maruthayar sub basin in

Perambalur District will be modernized and restoration work taken up.

247. Regulated Marketing Committee in Perambalur will be created by bifurcating Regulated Marketing Committee at Trichy.

248. A Bridge at 4/8 km of NH to Kaipadi Road across Maruthayuar river in Perambalur District will be sanctioned.

249. Major District Road at Alathur – Ariyalur Road will be upgraded to the level of State Highways standard.

250. Other District Roads at Krishnapuram - Venbavur Periavadakarai – Kaikalathur - Pillangulam, Pillangulam to Googaiyur in Perambalur will be upgraded to the level of Major District Roads.

251. Other District Roads at Sendurai-Anganur-Nakkambadi-Puduvettakudi-Nannai-Eraiyur in Perambalur will be upgraded to the level of State Highways.

252. OP Block, Dialysis Ward and Ophthalmic Ward will be established at Government Hospital, Usilampatty in Madurai District.

253. A Dialysis Unit will be established at Government Hospital, Melur in Madurai District.

254. Therkkar River from Sathankudi Anicut to Melakottai in Thirumangalam Taluk will be regraded.

255. Permanent Restoration and Flood Protection works will be undertaken in Aanaipappankulam Tank surplus course of Thirumangalam Town.

256. Underpass will be provided at Ring Road and Sivagangai Road Junction in Madurai District.

257. A High Level Bridge will be constructed across Vaigai river connecting Paravi and Thuvariman.

258. Rail Over Bridge will be constructed in Madurai City at Chinthamani at 0/7 km of Madurai and Silaiman Railway Station.

259. A road will be formed in the left bank of Vaigai river connecting Kurivikaran Salai Bridge and PTR Bridge in Madurai District.

260. Amma Unavagam will be opened at Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai.

261. New office buildings will be constructed for the newly created Madurai West, Madurai East and Tiruparankundram Taluks.

262. A Rail Under Bridge will be constructed near S.P.B. Mills, Pallipalayam in Namakkal District.

263. A new water supply improvement scheme will be formulated for Namakkal Municipality.

264. A new Bus Stand will be established in Namakkal Town.

265. New buildings will be constructed for 53 Health Sub Centres in Karur District.

266. 14 Additional Buildings will be constructed for High and Higher Secondary Schools in Karur District.

267. A new supply channel will be formed from Kathirikapalayam odai to Uppukarai to feed Santhapadi Tank in Karur District.

268. Staff Nurse Quarters will be constructed for Primary Health Centres in Karur District where the number of deliveries are more than 10 per month.

269. 534 ICDS Centres will be constructed in Karur District.

270. Additional Class Rooms and toilets will be constructed in Government Arts College, Karur.

271. Investigation will be undertaken for Combined Water Supply Scheme in

Thanthoni Panchayat Union covering 267 rural habitations in 14 Panchayats of Karur District.

272. A building will be constructed for newly created Manmangalam Taluk Office of Karur District.

273. A new water tank will be constructed for the Armed Reserve Quarters in Sivagangai District.

274. A Generator will be provided to the District Police Office, Sivagangai District.

275. Necessary roads will be laid within the Armed Reserve Complex in Sivagangai District.

276. The police personnel in the Nilgiris District will be supplied with blue jackets in lieu of blue jersey supplied now.

277. Blue great coats are now being supplied once in ten years to the Police Personnel in Nilgiris District. Henceforth, it will be supplied once in three years.

278. A building will be sanctioned for Allinagaram Police Station in Theni Sub Division, Theni District, which is now functioning in a rented building.

279. A building will be sanctioned for Thenkarai Police Station in Periyakulam Sub Division, Theni District which is now functioning in a rented building.

280. A new building will be sanctioned for the Tiruchendur Taluk Police Station in Thoothukudi District.

281. Repairs to the A.R. Ground in Vellore District will be taken up to guard against flooding and water stagnation and a track will also be laid in the ground.

282. The five border check posts of Vellore District will be equipped with CCTV and other Infrastructure facilities.

283. 7 76 Personnel in Special Investigation Team and infrastructure will be redeployed to SID, CBCID to strengthen the investigation and trial regarding cases pertaining to fundamentalists.

284. Cyber Crime Unit in CBCID will be strengthened by providing necessary hardware and software.

285. Training Allowance now given to DSPs in In-service Training Centres will be extended to other personnel of these units who are not getting this allowance.

286. A post of Commandant will be sanctioned for the Coastal Security Group for effective maintenance of fast interceptor boats. This post will be filled up on deputation from the Indian Navy or Coast Guard.

287. Digital File Management System will be provided to SB CID for easy retrieval of information.

288. A Sedan type bullet resistant car will be procured for the use of VVIPs.

289. A special allocation of Rs. 50 lakhs will be made to Security Branch for carrying out repairs to security equipment.

290. Necessary land will be allotted to the Fire and Rescue Services Department for constructing a building for the T.Nagar Fire & Rescue Services Station.

291. The financial powers of the Director, Joint Director and Deputy Director of the Fire and Rescue Services Department will be suitably enhanced in tune with the current needs for repair of vehicles.

292. Additional building will be sanctioned at Saidapet and Poonamallee Sub Jails to accommodate 100 persons additionally in each place.

293. A post of DIG, Prisons will be sanctioned for Vellore.

294. House Building Advance will be given for 35 prison staff who have been allotted houses in the Melakottaiyur Own Your House Scheme.

295. Repair work will be taken up for the sewage system in Marudam Complex, Chennai.

296. Protection wall and baffling system will be provided for the firing range at Marudam complex, Chennai.

297. Soft Air Training Guns will be sanctioned for the Tamil Nadu Commando Force for training the Quick Response Teams.

298. Special I.D. Cards incorporating security features will be provided to all police personnel.

299. An Office Building will be sanctioned for the Civil Supplies CID.

300. Risk Allowance will be sanctioned for the State Crimes Records Bureau personnel.

301. A new building will be sanctioned for the SCRB / Technical Services.

302. 110 High Quality Finger Print Kit Boxes will be supplied to the Single Digit Finger Print Bureaux.

303. 27 posts of DSP in the Social Justice and Human Rights Wing will be created by surrendering 27 posts of Inspector.

304. One post of AIG in the Social Justice and Human Rights Wing will be created.

305. Hardship Allowance of Rs. 900/- per month will be sanctioned for the Special Task Force Personnel.

306. Bell of Arms for safe storage of weapons will be sanctioned for two battalions of Tamil Nadu Special Police.

307. Administrative Building for two TSP Battalions will be sanctioned.

308. A Revolving Fund of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum will be provided for conducting training courses at the Police Computer Communication Centre.

309. An H.F. Data Network will be sanctioned for the Police Department to improve communication.

310. 300 VHF Static Sets, 600 VHF Mobile Sets, 1200 Handheld Sets and 128 VHF Repeaters will be sanctioned for the Police Department.

311. Heavy Duty Pressure Cookers will be provided to the Armed Reserve at a cost of Rs. 16 lakhs.

312. A web-based SMS Server System will be provided for the Police Department.

The following requests made by the Collectors and Police Officers require detailed examination and these will be examined separately and suitable orders issued.

1. Amendment to Section 167 Cr. P.C.
2. Amendment to certain Sections of the Explosives Rules.
3. Installation of statues in private places.
4. Sanction of Educational Loan by Co-operative Banks.
5. Access to data maintained by the Registration Department to the officials of the Revenue Department. ■

I. Chief Minister's Special Cell

Awards for efficient disposal of Chief Minister's Special Cell Petitions for the year 2013

For the District
Prize:- Shield

First Karur
Tmt. S.Jayandhi IAS

Second Tiruchirapalli
Tmt. Jayashree Muralidharan IAS

Third Tiruvarur
Thiru.S.Natarajan IAS

For Superintendent of Police

First Tiruvarur
Thiru.S.Kaliraj Magesh Kumar IPS

Second Sivaganga
Thiru. Aswin M. Kotnis IPS

Third Vellore
Dr.P. Vijaya Kumar IPS

For the Commissionerate of Police

First Madurai
Thiru.S.Sanjay Mathur, IPS

For Heads of Departments

First TNEB
Thiru.K.Gnanadesikan IAS – Chairman, TNEB

Second Corporation of Chennai
Thiru. Vikram Kapur IAS
Commissioner, Corporation of Chennai.

Third Metrowater
Dr.B.Chandra Mohan IAS – MD, Metrowater

II. Information Technology Department

Award for district level e-governance initiative

For the District
Prize: Shield

First Perambalur
Dr.Darez Ahamed IAS

III. Labour & Employment Department

Awards for efforts in eradication of child labour for the year 2011 and 2012

For the District
Prize: Shield
First Dharmapuri
Thiru.K.Vivekanandan IAS

Second Vellore
Dr.R.Nanthagopal IAS

IV. Welfare of Differently-Abled persons Department

Awards for special initiatives directed towards welfare of differently-abled persons

For the Collector
Prize : 10 gram gold coin Certificate Rs.25,000/ towards Collectors discretionary fund

First Dr.Darez Ahamed IAS
Perambalur

Second Thiru.C.Samayamoorthy IAS (Presently Joint Secretary, RD & PR Dept) For his work as District Collector, Tirunelveli

Third Tmt. S.Jayandhi IAS
Karur

V. Health & Family Welfare Department

Awards for initiatives in Health and Family Welfare

For the Collector
Prize : Certificate Gold plated Bronze medal

First Dr.P.Shankar IAS (Collector Nilgiris) For his work as Collector, Vellore

Second Thiru.K.S.Palanisamy IAS Theni

Third Thiru.K.Nandakumar IAS Ramanathapuram

VI. Environment & Forests Department

Green Award for 2012-2013

For the Collector
Prize : Shield

First Tmt. Jayashree Muralidharan IAS Tiruchirapalli

Second Thiru.V.Dakshinamoorthy IAS Namakkal

Third Dr.P.Shankar IAS The Nilgiris

VII. Hon'ble Chief Minister's Special Award

First Thiru.V.Sampath IAS District Collector, Villupuram

Second Thiru.K. Maharabhushanam IAS District Collector, Salem

Fourteenth Finance Commission exhorted to take a bold approach

Chief Minister calls for paradigm shift in Centre-State financial relations

Speech of Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the meeting with the 14th Finance Commission held at Chennai on 16.12.2013

Hon'ble Chairman of the Fourteenth Finance Commission Dr. Y. V. Reddy,

Hon'ble Members of the Fourteenth Finance Commission

Srimathi Sushama Nath Dr. Govinda Rao and Dr. Sudipto Mundle,

Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Shri A.N. Jha, Secretary of the Commission,

Chief Secretary, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan,

Senior officials of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, and

Officers of the State Government,

Vanakkam.

1. At the outset let me extend a very warm welcome to the distinguished Chairman and Members and the officials of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. This Commission includes a constellation of eminent persons. It combines and balances the deep knowledge of sound theoreticians of public finance with the thorough understanding of seasoned practitioners of political economy. Tamil Nadu has the highest respect for and faith in the institution of the Finance Commission.

2. The makers of our Constitution recognized that for reasons of administrative efficiency and convenience more of the taxation powers had to be vested with the Central Government. But the responsibilities for actual delivery of many resource intensive public services -- maintenance of public order, public

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J Jayalalithaa presented a momento to the fourteenth Finance Commission Chairman Dr. Y.V. Reddy.

health, agriculture, education, to name just a few, were vested with the States which are much closer to the people. Such an arrangement was occasioned by many considerations which were valid when the country had just become independent. These included the overall level of economic development of the country; the variation in the sophistication of administrative institutions found in the different regions of the country; and above all the political situation prevailing at that time. The scars of the traumatic Partition of the country were still fresh. The memories of the herculean efforts undertaken to integrate the erstwhile princely States into the Indian Union and to consolidate the Nation were very recent. Democracy in the country was too nascent.

3. Over the last 63 years since we adopted our Constitution the scenario has changed considerably and for the better. India is now a confident nation and a mature democracy. Undoubtedly economic challenges remain, but they are of a different order –- not those of tackling food scarcity and starvation or of overcoming the handicaps created by a few centuries of colonial rule including the absence of a modern industrial base.

4. Liberalization has unleashed economic forces that make the role of the public sector in direct production activity less significant. The role of the Government at the Centre is now much more that of a facilitator through economic policy making; while the role of the State Governments as providers of public services including maintenance of public order and provision of social and economic infrastructure has grown. The States have had to spend more to provide a social safety net for the poor in particular. Investors decide the location of industry not on the basis of a license issued by a Central Ministry, but on the basis of whether and where quality public services and infrastructure; including well maintained rule of law and public order; a well-educated, healthy workforce; good quality roads, power and other services are available.

5. Clearly then, the resource needs of the States have increased significantly. More importantly, State Governments, which are engaged in the direct provision of many services, have also demonstrated their greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of such services. Many of the best success stories in service delivery have come from the States. Tamil Nadu has been a front runner. The

introduction of the Nutritious Mid Day Meal programme by Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR; the introduction of Old Age Pension schemes; and the continued implementation of a universal Public Distribution System in which rice is supplied free of cost are some examples of Tamil Nadu's model initiatives.

6. We have also seen a steady shift in real political and economic power away from the Centre. State level parties and leaders are now far more significant players. These should not be seen as centrifugal or fissiparous trends that have to be curbed; but as a manifestation of India's maturing as a nation with diversity and as a democracy. After all, it takes strong States to make a strong Union.

7. Although the administrative and economic role of the State has grown significantly and a federal polity has become more entrenched changes in Centre-State fiscal relations have clearly not kept pace. States do not receive the predictable, non-discretionary and non-discriminatory flow of resources from the Centre that the Constitution envisages. Only 54 per cent of the resource flow to the States flows through the Finance Commission route. The balance flows through Plan assistance and Centrally Sponsored Schemes which unlike Finance Commission devolution have no Constitutional basis and are subject to several vagaries.

8. The approach of the Centre to financing State Plans is very condescending. The share of "Normal Central Assistance", which is the untied formula based allocation, has been whittled down systematically. The States have been placed at the whim and mercy of different Ministries at the Centre to receive scheme tied assistance. Details of even small projects in different sectors have to be sent to different Ministries in Delhi presentations made and specific approval sought. While Tamil Nadu may be more efficient in ensnaring more funds for some of the schemes in such a mechanism I sincerely believe that such discretionary transfers are not just a sub-optimal solution but deeply humiliating for the States. The elected State Governments are not regarded as equal partners in the development process but as mere local supplicants.

9. The situation is made worse by the fact that Tamil Nadu does not receive its due share in Central Plan funds. According to the Twelfth Plan Document Tamil Nadu receives just 4.328 per cent in fund flow against 5.96 per cent population share as per the 2011 census. Not only does this design of fund flow penalize a better performing State; it also raises a very serious doubt that there is a sinister conspiracy to consciously discriminate against some States in matters of Plan Fund allocation.

10. Plan transfers are also subject to arbitrary mid-year cuts. Year after year we have found that promised releases of funds have not been made. Annual Work Plans are approved for many schemes and the State goes ahead with incurring expenditure to find itself left high and dry later in the year when the Centre cuts back on its allocations and fund releases are not made. This not only hurts the State's fiscal health but also affects effective scheme implementation.

11. **These are the reasons why Tamil Nadu is a very strong votary of the idea that, the greatest proportion if not the entire fund flow from the Centre to the States should be on the basis of the recommendations of the constitutionally mandated Finance Commission rather than through other mechanisms.** We have also found that the State has actually received just and equitable resolutions to many of its issues only from Constitutional authorities including the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Hence we turn to the Finance Commission.

12. **The Fourteenth Finance Commission is at the cusp of history. It has the opportunity to re-order Centre State financial relations in the Country and make them reflect the contemporary reality of the political economy. I urge the Commission that your approach should not be incremental and self-limiting. I request you to take a bold approach and effect the paradigm shift that is needed at this juncture**.

13. I request the Commission to ensure that discretionary expenditure of the Centre including that of Gross Budgetary Support to the Plan should be kept out of the committed liabilities of the Central Government when the resources available with the Centre for devolution to the States are assessed. The Centre levies a number of cesses and surcharges to avoid sharing the proceeds with the States under Article 270 of the Constitution. They now amount to close to 8 per cent of the Centre's Gross Tax Revenue. Hence, cesses and surcharges should also be made shareable. Out of the aggregate resources available with the Centre we believe that at least 50 per cent should be made shareable with the States under Article 270. This would appropriately balance the expenditure needs of the States and the Centre. It would also considerably diminish the scope for discretionary and discriminatory transfers that the Centre often resorts to.

14. The composition of transfers recommended by the Finance Commissions has also changed. It is disquieting that the share of grants under Article 275 has increased to 18.1 percent of the total transfers in the Thirteenth Finance Commission period up from just 7.2 per cent in the Seventh Commission's award. This is not a welcome trend. These grants are being tagged with numerous conditions and administered at the discretion of the Central Government. Sometimes the grants are not even received by the States during the award period. Hence, I request the Finance Commission to reverse this trend. Most resources should go to States through the Article 270 tax devolution route. Grants under Article 275 should be limited to meet the needs of equalization and the very specific special requirements of States.

15. The Commission has also been asked to consider the level of subsidies that are required and the equitable sharing of subsidies between the Centre and the

States. This is an issue we have dealt with in some detail in the Memorandum. The Centre's main subsidies are for food fertilizers and fuel. In each of these areas, many States and Tamil Nadu in particular already provide high levels of subsidy. Such subsidies are provided primarily with the overall welfare perspective in mind. It would be very difficult for Tamil Nadu to take on any portion of the Centre's current liabilities on this score without commensurate transfer of resources.

16. Turning now to how individual States have been treated in the allocation of resources I am constrained to state that successive Finance Commissions do not appear to have requited the faith that Tamil Nadu has consistently placed in the institution of the Finance Commission. Tamil Nadu's share of resources transferred based on the recommendations of the Commission have shrunk from 7.68 percent in the Seventh Commission to 4.98 per cent in the Thirteenth Commission. Tamil Nadu was particularly hard hit by the recommendations of the Tenth and the Eleventh Commissions.

17. Tamil Nadu's situation is mirrored in the way many of the better performing States have also been treated. I would submit that this is a flawed trend that needs to be arrested and reversed. The asymmetry in the Constitutional scheme of allocation of functions and of resources straightaway implies that out of vertical transfer of resources from the Centre to the States the largest proportion are required to maintain the continued provision of public services in all States and not just in backward States. The Finance Commission has to ensure adequate allocation based on such needs to all the States.

18. Tamil Nadu's successes in population control; efficiency in tax collection and greater effectiveness in expenditure on development; and other programmes have gone unrewarded by successive Commissions. In fact the State has actually been penalized. At the same time the higher level of growth in the State has brought its own set of challenges in terms of rising aspirations. Resources are needed to ensure that the levels of service provision are upgraded to meet these aspirations – in the area of maintenance of public order; improved delivery of justice; provision of quality roads; water supply; schools and health facilities. Issues arising from intra-State variations in development have to be addressed.

19. Tamil Nadu stands on the brink of a big opportunity, that is also a major challenge, and which presents itself but rarely in the course of economic development. As a result of sustained low birth rates, the State currently enjoys a demographic dividend of having a very high proportion of its population in the working age group, an advantage which may not last very long. Development economists have acknowledged that this demographic structure is a window of opportunity; which if used effectively, could provide a spurt in economic growth. Substantially enhanced investment in social and economic infrastructure is required to take advantage of this window of opportunity before it fades away in a decade or two.

20. It is this limited window of opportunity that I am attempting to capture through the ambitious Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 – an agenda for investment of 15 lakh crore rupees in social and economic infrastructure. Initiatives like the free

laptop computer scheme are directed at skill enhancement. The distribution of free fans, mixies and grinders to women heads of poor households is directed at freeing more women from domestic drudgery to enable them to participate in the work force. **The State urgently needs fiscal support at this crucial stage of development. Any tapering of transfers at this critical stage would adversely affect long term growth prospects.** I am determined that the State should grow prosperous before it grows old. I earnestly request the Finance Commission to support this noble endeavour.

21. A development that caused us some concern was the setting up of an Expert Committee chaired by Dr Raghuram Rajan to evolve criteria for identifying Backward States and to suggest how the criteria may be reflected in future planning and devolution of funds from the Central Government to the States. Recommending criteria for devolution of funds from the Centre to the States is a function for the Finance Commision under Article 280. A Committee set up by the Union Finance Minister under an executive order can never substitute the constitutionally mandated process of the Finance Commission. The index of underdevelopment constructed by the Committee rates Tamil Nadu very high. Much as this may be recognition of the sustained developmental efforts taken in the State the index itself is problematic. It cannot be treated as a reflection of the "need" of the States for resources, since funds flow is not the only factor relevant to overcome underdevelopment. This hurriedly drafted Report appears to be a thinly disguised attempt to provide an intellectual justification to the political objectives of the mentor of the exercise. I strongly recommend that the Fourteenth Finance Commission should reject outright the Report of the Expert Committee. The Commission should independently make its recommendations without getting pressured by such misleading and unnecessary inputs.

22. **It is in this context, that I make my suggestion for a simple robust and equitable formula for distribution of resources amongst States. One-third weight may be assigned to each of the following criteria:– First Population based on the 1971 Census; second, fiscal discipline including tax effort; and third fiscal capacity distance. Many States would suggest elements of the formula that would suit their own interests. I am sure that you would appreciate that my suggestion is well-balanced and equitable.**

23. The 1971 population is the most fair and objective criterion that can be applied to all States. We are very concerned by the indication in the Terms of Reference that demographic changes post 1971 may also be taken note of. I urge the Commission that States like Tamil Nadu which have fulfilled a national duty in encouraging the small family norm should not be made to suffer by taking note of demographic changes since 1971.

24. Fiscal discipline and tax effort are relevant both to reward States that have done well in maintaining such discipline; and as an incentive for States to perform better. The weight for this criterion has been too low in the recommendations of previous Commissions and needs to be increased to at least match the fiscal capacity

distance criterion. Fiscal capacity distance will address the interests of the States which lack the capacity to raise resources of their own. It should also be used to penalize those States which have the taxable capacity but fail to utilize it fully. Hence I believe that my suggestion on the devolution formula presents a well balanced and fair solution.

25. Turning to other issues the Commission has been asked to consider the impact of the proposed Goods and Services Tax on the finances of the Centre and the States and the mechanism for compensation in case of any loss. This issue is already being addressed by the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers. Tamil Nadu has a number of objections to the proposed design of GST under the modified draft Constitutional Amendment Bill. **I am primarily concerned about the impact the proposals have on the fiscal autonomy of the States and the huge permanent revenue loss GST is likely to cause to a manufacturing and net exporting State like Tamil Nadu. It was in this context that I made my suggestion of an alternative radical approach. The levy, collection and appropriation of the substitutes for VAT, Central Excise Duty and Service Tax within a State should be delegated completely to the State machinery, with the Central machinery focusing on interstate taxation.** Such an approach would adequately address both issues -- of fiscal autonomy and adequate compensation.

26. Tamil Nadu devolves the highest proportion of untied resources to Local Bodies amongst all States expressed as a proportion of revenue receipts or revenue expenditure. Our devolution is more than twice the national level. I suggest that 5 percent of the divisible pool should be earmarked for local bodies. The proportion for urban local bodies should be determined in line with the urban population of each State. The General Basic Grant component should be at least. 80 percent of the total grant and conditions on the General Performance Grant should be limited and significant and not act as a drag on performance.

27. For calamity relief, I suggest that it is time that the size of the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) is reset in line with the levels of expenditure on disasters in recent years. The Centre should fund the entire amount or at least 90 percent of the enlarged SDRF. This is amply justified since the Fund meets only immediate rescue and relief costs and the State Government has to meet the entire cost of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

28. The Terms of Reference for this Commission require it to suggest statutory provisions to insulate the pricing of public utility services like drinking water; irrigation; power; and public transport from policy fluctuations. I am afraid this issue is fraught with many difficulties. I doubt whether referring this issue to the Commission is within the Constitutional mandate since many of these receipts are outside the Consolidated Fund of States. Tamil Nadu is a water starved State and the State Government has the duty to provide this very basic requirement to its people. Hence water cannot always be priced in commercial terms. Hence I do hope the Commission will approach this sensitive issue realistically and not make recommendations that would be un-implementable.

29. Finally, I would like to draw your attention to some of the requirements that the State has towards upgradation of standards of administration and to tackle special problems. Totally the State has requested for 41,408.79 crore rupees as grants including 14 proposals for Upgradation of Standards of Administration; and 10 proposals for State Specific Needs. I would like to briefly highlight a few of the important requests.

30. The Tamil Nadu Police is one of the most professionally competent Police Forces in the Country and has consistently delivered a stellar performance by ensuring the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the State. To sustain this exemplary record we need to provide resources for the emerging needs of modernization of equipment and updating of technology. Provision of housing for Policemen and Officers close to their place of work is also crucial to improving their effectiveness. Towards these compelling needs, we request the Commission to recommend a grant of 3825 crore rupees. I hope you will consider this favourably.

31. Tamil Nadu is the most urbanized large State in India. Rapid and high volume migration coupled with high housing costs have resulted in an increase in slum population. While the problem is being effectively tackled in the 10 Corporation cities under existing schemes; the slums in Municipalities and in Town Panchayats are still to be covered. We have sought a grant of 7,150 crore rupees for slum upgradation and rehabilitation in Municipalities and Town Panchayats which would cover about 25 percent of the slum population in these areas.

32. Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in Wind Energy and we are now attempting to blaze a new trail by launching a Solar Power Policy with the aim of adding 3000 mega watts of capacity in the next five years. This would add to the existing 7504 mega watts of Wind Capacity cementing Tamil Nadu's position as the national leader in Renewable Energy. Renewable energy generation is highly dispersed and has much lower load factors. Hence evacuation infrastructure to transmit the power to load centres is much more expensive. Therefore, we request you to support this endeavor by recommending a grant of 2,250 crore rupees.

33. Tamil Nadu is a perennially water scarce State and the need to harvest every drop of rain that falls through rehabilitating traditional water bodies cannot be overstated. We have requested a grant for this purpose and I request substantial assistance for this requirement.

34. I have outlined the major concerns of Tamil Nadu and the proposals that we have. **I would like to emphasize that the Commission needs to make a complete break with the incremental approach of the past. It needs to attempt to match expenditure responsibilities and resource needs and thereafter work out what proportion of the resources needs to be allocated to the States as a whole and to each individual State. A predictable non-discretionary and non-discriminatory mechanism has to be put in place**. I thank the Commission for their visit to Tamil Nadu and I hope their stay is both comfortable and rewarding. I look forward to your report eagerly and with the hope that the injustice done to Tamil Nadu by successive Commissions would be undone by you.

Thank You.

'Tamil Nadu doing its best to Bridge Power deficit'

HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER's REPLY REGARDING POWER SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU TO DR. SUDIPTO MUNDLE, MEMBER OF FOURTEENTH FINANCE COMMISSION - 16.12.2013

Dr. Mundle raised the question of power situation about the gap between demand and supply. I would like to just briefly state a few facts. It is true this Government is facing and tackling a very difficult power situation, a situation of a big gap between demand and supply. But I would like to emphasize with all the force at my command that this situation is not the creation of this Government.

This is my third tenure as Chief Minister. During my first tenure as Chief Minister between 1991-1996, Tamil Nadu was a power surplus State. There were no power cuts. Again during my second tenure as Chief Minister, between 2001 and 2006, Tamil Nadu was a power surplus State. There was no question of any power cuts at that time. When I demited office in 2006, Tamil Nadu was a power surplus State.

We were actually supplying power to other States and earning revenue through that route also. But then when I assumed office again, when I took over as Chief Minister for the third time in 2011, I inherited a very dismal situation where the power situation had been allowed to plunge to abysmal state.

Many new projects were initiated by my Government between 2001 and 2006. If those projects have been carried forward, if they had been completed, even today Tamil Nadu would have been a power surplus State. But the previous Government ignored all those schemes and did not take any interest in carrying forward those projects or implementing them. There was a perennial power shortage in Tamil Nadu from 2007 onwards, particularly, in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and upto May 2011 when a different Government was administering the State.

At that time, the Government to tide over the situation went in for power purchase. There are different ways that the power can be purchased of which I am sure you are well aware. There are long term agreements, if those long-term agreements have been signed with other States in such a case, the cost of power would have been lower we would have been assured of power supply for a number of years and we would have got priority in the allocation of transmission corridor to us by the Centre. But deliberately, the previous Government went in for short term purchases and so at a time when this Government took over, we faced a dismal situation of nearly

4000 MWs power deficit which was not at all our creation.

We inherited this dismal legacy. We were forced to tackle this. So, at that time, we went in for power purchase because as you very well know for a new power project to be initiated and then actually gets started, it takes a lot of time. So when we went in for power purchase, we succeeded in negotiating agreements with other States which have power surplus for purchase of power. But then even though, for example, we negotiated an agreement with Gujarat to purchase 500 MWs, there was no room for us in the transmission corridor, because priority was given to other States which had already negotiated long-term agreement and therefore we were able to actually bring only about 100 or 150 MWs to Tamil Nadu. This was the situation.

Then as I already told you, though this is not a political forum I am simply stating facts. We have initiated a number of new power projects which could have got started, could have got commissioned but clearances are deliberately being delayed by the Central Government.

There are many areas where the State Government has got only limited powers. Clearances have to be given by the Central Government which are being denied. For example, for the Kundah Power Project and the Sillahalla Power Project, we are ready, to start but clearances are not being given by the Central Government.

There was an earlier power project which was commissioned during my second tenure as Chief Minister and for that the Central clearance was needed just to take a transmission cable through about 14 kms of forest land. This had to be given by the Ministry of Environment and Forests at the Centre. It was deliberately delayed for political reasons.

We kept on reminding the Centre. I even wrote several times to the Prime Minister, but there was no response. Finally, after waiting for one and a half years, you must remember that this was a project intended to serve the people and cater to their power needs.

Finally, we had to approach the Supreme Court, move the Supreme Court and only after the Supreme Court gave a direction to the Central Government, the permission was accorded. This is the kind of situation we are facing.

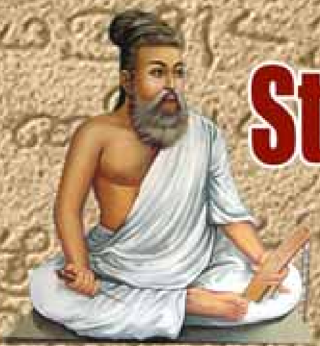
Therefore, I would like to assure you that we are very conscious of the power situation, of the demand and the deficit in the amount we are able to supply but we have tied over the crisis to a large extent. Today, I would say that the gap has been bridged.

From the months of July this year, 2013 upto October 2013 there was no power cut in Tamil Nadu. We had successfully bridged the entire gap between demand and supply in two and a half years and I made a statement on the floor of the Assembly saying that this was possible only due to the Herculean efforts put in by this Government. But then very strangely, immediately after I made this statement on the floor of the House, a number of Central Generating Stations went out of order in Tamil Nadu.

I leave you to draw your own inference from this. Till today, every thermal plant, every power generating plant that is under the control of the State Government is functioning to full capacity. Now again there is a power deficit and that power deficit arises because of certain flaws which have crept in Central Generating Stations and

I must say it is very odd that all these have taken place at the same time, simultaneously.

Still we are doing our best and I assure you that in another six months or so, Tamil Nadu will be totally free of power cuts, it will be a power surplus State and the rest of the details will be sent to you by the Finance Secretary. Thank you.



Stone laid for new building of World Tamil institute

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa laid the foundation stone at the Secretariat on 23.12.2013, for a Rs. 4.17 crore administrative building for the World Tamil Research Institute at Taramani, Chennai. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open a Tirukkural Painting Gallery and a World Tamil Culture Reception cum Information Centre, each costing Rs. 10 lakh at the Research Institute.

Through the World Tamil Research Institute, facilities have been created for Tamil scholars all over the World to do research on Tamil language and for foreigners to learn Tamil. As the institute building is 40 years old, the need for a new building was felt. The new building for which the foundation has been laid, will have a research hall, language learning hall, a research library, modern class rooms and other facilities.

The Tirukkural Painting Gallery displays 133 paintings, one for each chapter, to convey, particularly to the youth, the great ideas embedded in Tirukkural on a variety of topics such as ethical living, family set-ups, community, country and universality.

Besides the paintings, palm leaf manuscripts connected with Tirukkural, rare books, pictures, statues, photographs and more than 1500 prose works dealing with Tirukkural are also on display.

The Reception-cum-Information Centre will help the Tamil diaspora all over the world to find, hear and know the cultural roots of Tamil Nadu, their motherland, to undertake literary cultural tours and to get information on Tamil and Tamil people under one roof.

Memorials for Dheeran Chinnamalai, Vanchinathan

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open at the Secretariat through video conferencing on 23.12.2013 the Rs. 60 lakh memorial for Thyagi Dheeran Chinnamalai at Sankagiri in Salem District the place where he was hanged. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open the Rs. 50 lakh Manimandapam erected at Shencottah in Tirunelveli District in memory of freedom fighter Vanchinathan with a bust of his and laid the foundation for a Rs. 61 crore auditorium at Omandurar Government Estates at Chennai.

Dheeran Chinnamalai fought against British imperialism and was a nightmare to the British. By way of honouring his sacrifice, a memorial function was organised on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government at Kangeyam in Erode District in 1955 during the first term of office of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and his heirs werehonoured. In the second term of office in 2003, the Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered that the anniversary of Dheeran Chinnamalai, falling on the 18th of Tamil month Aadi be observed as Government function at 'Odanilai' in Erode District. Three years later, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open a Manimandapam for him constructed at the same place at a cost of Rs. 30 lakh. On 17.4.2013 the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open the renovated Dheeran Chinnamalai statue complex at the Thiru. Vi.Ka. Industrial Estate at Guindy, Chennai as also a plaque containing his life history. The renovation was at a cost of Rs. 10 lakh.

The revoltionary Vanchinathan was born in Shencottah, Tirunelveli District in 1886. After college education, he joined the Forest Department in the erstwhile Travancore Princely state. Attracted by the patriotic speeches of V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and Subramania Siva, he plunged into the freedom struggle, relinquished his job and joined the Bharatha Matha Sangam, a revolutionary

set-up, along with Neelakanta Brahmachari. Vanchinathan shot dead the then Tirunelveli District Collector Ashe, at Maniyachi Railway station on June 17, 1911 and shot himself with the same pistol. The auditorium for which the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation, will come up on a 1.94 lakh sq. ft area and will have three flours besides the ground floor. The first floor will have an auditorium with a seating capacity of 600, a VVIP lobby and dining hall, a food court, and 4 escalators; the 2nd floor another auditorium with a similar capacity, a convention hall to accommodate 115 persons, an entertainment room, information centre, food court and a lounge; the 3rd floor will have multi-purpose hall with thousand seats, convention hall with a seating capacity for 115 persons and a modular kitchen. The ground floor will have a VIP lounge, the office room of the Information and Public Relations Officer, maintenance room, rest room and a parking lot.

In the same building complex, a State Information Centre will also come up on a 10,000 sq. ft area at a cost of Rs. 2 crore. ■

132nd Birth Anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathiyar

Hon'ble Ministers, the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai and the Secretary to the department of Tamil Development and Information, offered floral tributes on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government to a portrait of Mahakavi Bharathiyar placed near his statue on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai on 11.12.2013 in connection with the poet's 132nd birth anniversary.

In light of attacks on Indian Fishermen

'Don't participate in defence exercises with Sri Lanka'

D.O. Letter dated 20.12.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"Over the last two years, I have written to you a number of times bringing to your notice the deep, widespread and strong sentiments amongst all sections of Society and all shades of opinion in Tamil Nadu on the need to hold the present regime in Sri Lanka to account in the aftermath of the ethnic civil strife in Sri Lanka, which was marked by an ethnic pogrom and genocide against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has already passed four Resolutions condemning the continuing discrimination against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and violation of their human rights and calling for strong response from the Government of India.

"The present Sri Lankan regime is also persisting with its harsh and unreasonable policy of launching punitive and totally unprovoked attacks upon innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen eking out their meagre livelihood by fishing in their traditional fishing waters. Such attacks and abductions are followed by extended periods of detention in Sri Lankan jails, confiscation of boats, fishing nets, and other fishing gear thereby causing extensive economic losses, reducing them to penury and condemning the fishermen and their families to considerable mental agony. The entire fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is agitated over the acts of indiscriminate abduction of our fishermen on the high seas and their prolonged incarceration in prison.

"Please refer to my letters dated 16.7.2012, 25.8.2012, 28.8.2012 and 8.6.2013, wherein I had unambiguously conveyed the deep sense of outrage of the people of Tamil Nadu regarding the imparting of training to Sri Lankan defence personnel at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, located in the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. While communicating Tamil Nadu's strong protest, I had urged that the Government of India should issue a clear policy direction that the Ministry of Defence should not hereafter provide training, or engage in any form of co-operation with the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, until satisfactory and credible action is taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to completely stop the human rights violations against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and end the unprovoked and marauding attacks on fishermen from Tamil Nadu. I had also written to you on 11.9.2013 that the Government of India should cancel the agreement to supply naval warships to Sri Lanka and ensure that no support of any kind is provided to the Sri Lankan military forces. Most recently on 30.11.2013, I had written to condemn the insensitive proposal made by the Indian Chief of Naval Staff to enroll Sri Lankan Navy personnel in the four year Bachelor of Technology course currently

offered to Indian Naval officers. I am, therefore, totally dismayed to note from media reports that the Indian Coast Guard is participating in a marine defence exercise and has deputed ships, officers and men to Trincomalee, to participate in this exercise which is reported to be commencing there on 21st December, 2013. This is in complete and callous disregard of the strong views and emotions of the people of Tamil Nadu clearly and unambiguously conveyed to the Government of India, in my letters referred to above, through Assembly Resolutions and through protests, agitations and demonstrations by the people of Tamil Nadu.

"However, the Government of India has still chosen to ride rough shod over the groundswell of emotions in Tamil Nadu and has persisted with its policy stance towards Sri Lanka. In fact, the Government of India has extended an open hand of co-operation to the Sri Lankan Navy through the defence related exercise. This is the same Sri Lankan Navy which continues to prey upon innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu with impunity and subjects them to abduction, arrest, torture and long periods of detention.

"Such an overt act of defence co- operation with a nation that puts down its own hapless Tamil minority citizens and perpetrates serious human rights violations upon them, can only be termed as outrageous and condemnable.

"I wish to convey our strong protest against this insensitive policy of defence co-operation with Sri Lanka, which totally ignores the impact it may have upon not just the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu, but the direct effect on the right to livelihood of the fishermen in the coastal districts of the State. I, therefore, request you to urgently review this policy and instruct the Ministry of Defence not to participate in the naval exercises in Sri Lanka and to immediately recall the two Indian Coast Guard ships and personnel.

May I request an urgent response on this sensitive issue?" ■

Dial 104 for medical info

A round-the-clock telephone service for getting medical information has been set up at a cost of Rs. 1.20 crore.

The facility 'Dial 104' will offer information on first aid, medical consultations, information on mother-child care, blood donation, eye donation, infectious and non-infectious diseases, nutrition, the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, speciality hospitals and centres, psychiatric consultations, information on HIV and sexually transmitted diseases and clarification on doubts voiced.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated the '**Dial 104**' service from the Kodanadu Camp Office on 30.12.2013.

‘Stop being mute spectator of travails of Indian Fishermen’

D.O. Letter dated 6.1.2014 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India

“I am at a loss for words to convey my deepest anguish and frustration over the repeated apprehension and incarceration of a large number of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy. These continued oppressive acts have caused untold misery and hardship to the apprehended fishermen and their families. I wish to draw your attention to my letter dated 30.12.2013 bringing to your notice the apprehension of 40 fishermen and their 9 boats from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy on the 28th and 29th of December, 2013. In recent days, the marauding Sri Lankan Navy has not even spared the poorest fishermen who fish in traditional fishing crafts called “Vallams” and eke out a meagre livelihood in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay.

“In the latest incident, 5 Mechanised fishing boats bearing registration numbers IND-TN-09-MM-178, IND-TN-11-MM-195, IND-TN-11-MM-199, IND-TN-11-MM-257 and IND-TN-09-MM-127 with 25 fishermen belonging to Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu set out to fish from Mandapam South fishing base on 2.1.2014. While they were engaged in peaceful fishing in their traditional fishing waters in the Gulf of Mannar, they were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 2.1.2014.

“I wish to remind you that 250 Indian fishermen who were apprehended and remanded to custody in Sri Lankan Jails for long periods are yet to be released by the Sri Lankan Government while 79 Indian fishing boats are still in Sri Lankan custody and are being reduced to ruin and will be completely unusable for fishing operations.

“The repressive Sri Lankan Navy is establishing its authoritarian presence in the Palk Bay by chasing and arresting unarmed innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu who offer no provocation. These oppressive acts of the Sri Lankan Navy on the direction of the emboldened Sri Lankan regime have caused a great deal of suffering and coupled with the hopelessly inadequate response of the Government of India have given rise to considerable resentment and angst not only amongst the fishermen community, but also amongst the entire population of Tamil Nadu.

“The Indian Government has been a mute spectator all along and not at all willing to understand the sufferings of its own fishermen and their families and intervene effectively. The bread winners of poor fishermen families are kept under detention for months together in an alien land and the only assets they possess to earn their livelihood are also allowed to rot and ruin there due to the inaction of the Indian Government.

“May I once again urge your immediate personal intervention and exhort you to use the diplomatic channels of the Government of India in a concrete and decisive manner with the Sri Lankan authorities to secure the immediate release of 250 fishermen who are already languishing in Sri Lankan Jails in addition to the 25 fishermen who were apprehended on 2.1.2014 and the 84 fishing boats in Sri Lankan custody at the earliest?”

Chief Minister steers transport corporations to health

New buses inducted, retirement benefits paid speedily

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa inducted at the Kodanadu Camp Office on 30-12-2013. 414 buses into the fleet of State Transport Corporations, disbursed Rs. 154.26 crore as retirement benefits to 5,151 transport employees and declared open buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.37 crore of the Institute of Road and Transport Technology (IRTT) at Chithode in Erode District.

Based on the need, new buses and new bus routes are introduced. To mark the inducting of 333 new buses and 81 re-conditioned buses into the fleet of the State Transport Corporations, the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the bus keys to 7 drivers and flagged off the buses.

As a result of the series of steps taken by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the financial position of the State Transport Corporations is improving and the retirement benefits – commuted pension, gratuity, and earned leave salary are disbursed expeditiously.

In keeping with this, the the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented cheques to 4 retirees as a token of disbursement of Rs. 140.68 crore to 4,321 workers who had retired in 2011 and earned leave salary of Rs. 8.06 crore to 583 employees who retired in the 13 months between May 2012 and June 2013.

Of the two new buildings declared open for IRTT, one is for the computer science branch – on a plinth of 15,392 sq ft and at a cost of Rs. 1.16 crore and the other for a hostel for post-graduate students , on a plinth of 12,917 sq. ft. and at a cost of Rs. 1.21 crore.

The State Transport Corporations operate 20,634 route buses and transport 2.10 crore passengers daily.

Chief Minister opens apartments for tsunami affected

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 23.12.2013, 10,867 new apartments in multi-storeyed complexes in Chennai and various other urban centres costing totally Rs.441.50 crore.

These apartments have been allotted to the tsunami affected families residing along inland water ways and to fishermen families. Each apartment measures 270-357 sq ft. and costs between Rs.2.64 lakh to Rs. 7.23 lakh, and has a bedroom, a multi-purpose room with a kitchen, a bathroom and a toilet.

Community facilities like a library, petty shops, fair price shop, deep bore wells and a park have been provided in some scheme areas as per felt needs.

The apartments have come up at Ezhil Nagar Okkiyam Thoraipakkam (6,000; Rs.228.60 Crore), Okkiyam Thoraipakkam (2,048; Rs.106.11 Crore), and Nochi Nagar all in Chennai-(628; Rs.45.39 Crore); at Ammankulam in Coimbatore District (792, Rs. 23.44 Crore); at Machuvadi (96, Rs.2.60 Crore) and Sandaipettai- both in Pudukkottai Municipality (84, Rs. 2.54 Crore); V.O.C Nagar in Tirunelveli Municipality (207, Rs. 5.54 Crore); Duraisingh Nagar in Thoothukudi Municipality (78, Rs.2.15 Crore); MGR Nagar in Namakkal Municipality (342, Rs. 9.46 Crore); Ezhil Nagar Area-2 in Hosur Municipality (192, Rs.5.10 Crore) and Erumapalayam in Salem District (400, Rs. 10.57 Crore). ■

Milk procurement price hiked, no hike in milk prices

Statement of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa
on 23.12.2013
(English Translation)

Today (23.12.2013) I presided over a review meeting at the Secretariat to consider the request of the Milk Producers' Welfare Society to increase the procurement price of milk supplied to Aavin, an undertaking of the Tamil Nadu Government.

Hon'ble Minister for Finance and PWD, Thiru. O. Panneerselvam,Hon'ble Minister for Electricity and Prohibition Thiru. Natham R.Viswanathan, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development Thiru. K.P. Munusamy, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development Thiru. R. Vaithilingam, Hon'ble Minister for Dairy Thiru. Madhavaram Moorthy, Aavin Chairman Thiru. A. Miller, Chief Secretary to Government Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, Principal Secretary, Finance Department Thiru. R. Shanmugam, Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department Dr. S. Vijayakumar Aavin Managing Director Thiru. Sunil Paliwal and other high Government officials participated.

After a detailed discussion, I ordered the procurement price of milk to be raised by Rs. 3/- per litre both for cow's and buffalo's milk, taking into account the price of green and dry fodder, workers' wages, price of the milch animals, cost of medical expenses, the hike effected both in the price of milk and milk procurement by the co-operative societies and private establishments in a neighbouring state and the fairness in the request of the milk producers. The revised procurement price will be effective from 1.1.2014.

Following the revision, the procurement price will be Rs. 23/- per litre for cow's milk and Rs. 31/- per litre for buffalo's milk. About 22.50 lakh milk producers will benefit to the tune of Rs. 273.75 crore by this revision in price.

Though the procurement price is increased the consumers will not be burdened by an increase in the sale price of milk.

News in Pictures

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** presented at the Secretariat on 9.12.2013, a cheque for Rs. 1 lakh to Thiru. S. Vijay, an employee of a private water supplying agency and complimented him for protecting villagers from consuming poisoned water. He detected contamination of the water in the ground level water tank at Mettukottai Village in Panaikulam Panchayat, Pennagaram Taluk, Dharmapuri District and prevented its supply to villages. The ground level tank is part of the Hogennakkal Combined Water Supply scheme.

Drinking water scheme for villages around Kudankulam plant

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed the implementation of a combined drinking water supply scheme for 100 rural habitats in Kudankulam and 12 village panchayats in Radhapuram and Valliyur Panchayat Unions surrounding the Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant. The source of supply will be the Tambraparni river. The scheme is to be executed under the development programme for the areas around the Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also accorded administrative sanction for Rs. 68.10 crore for implementation of the scheme and Rs.87 lakh towards annual maintenance expenses.

The scheme will ensure supply of 55 litres of water per head per day for the people in these 100 rural habitats.

Water supply schemes for municipalities

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated at the Secretariat on 23.12.2013 through Video Conferencing, the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board's (TWAD) Rs. 9.55 Crore Drinking Water Development Scheme in the Villupuram Municipality.

The scheme envisages supply of 90 litres of protected drinking water per person per day to benefit 95,439 persons.

Similar schemes costing Rs.21.47 Crore were also inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the Districts of Erode, Tiruchirapalli, Tiruvannamalai, Kancheepuram, Vellore and Kanniyakumari.

The Erode Scheme will benefit 10,772 persons in Appakoodal Town Panchayat by, providing 90 litres of protected drinking water per person per day (Rs.70 lakh); the Tiruchirapalli Scheme will benefit 7,000 persons in Upiliyapuram Town Panchayat (70 litres per day; Rs. 24.90 lakh); the Tiruvannamalai Scheme will benefit 13,756 persons in Chithamur and 27 habitats in Anakkavur Union (40 litres per day; Rs. 1.85 Crore); the Kancheepuram Scheme will benefit 7,357 persons in Melayur and 12 other habitats in Kattankulathur Union (40 litres per day; Rs. 97.50 lakh); the Vellore Combined Water Supply Scheme will benefit 11,231 persons in Sumaithangi and 13 other habitats in Wallajah Union (40 litres; Rs.99.72 lakh); and the Kanniyakumari Combined Water Supply Scheme will benefit 1,86,347 persons in 79 habitats in Melpuram Union (40 litres; Rs.16.70 Crore).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open an integrated water treatment plant for the three Combined Water Supply Schemes at Kaliyakavilai, Kollengode and Melpuram in Kanniyakumari District. ■

Chief Minister hikes Sugarcane Procurement price

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 21.12.2013 (English Translation)

My Government has been taking constructive steps to increase sugarcane production, get good price for sugarcane cultivators and improve sugar production.

Tamil Nadu is the premier State in India in sugarcane productivity. It cultivates sugarcane in 8.65 lakh acres. To increase the sugarcane productivity further, micro irrigation has been introduced; 100 per cent subsidy is offered to small and micro farmers who take up this micro irrigation practice and 75 per cent subsidy is offered for others. The ceiling of one acre has been relaxed for getting the micro irrigation subsidy. Also steps are being taken to introduce modern sugarcane cultivation technology on a long-term basis. A special purpose unit has been created in the Commisionerate of the Horticulture Department for procuring in time the various inputs needed for sugarcane cultivation including soluble fertilizers and distributing them to farmers. A revolving fund of Rs. 50 crore has also been set up for this purpose. Even while offering such concessions for increasing sugarcane production, my Government has also been extending a State Advisory Price, keeping in mind the interests of sugarcane farmers, whenever the Central Government is increasing the fair and support price for sugarcane. Accordingly, when the Central Government fixed a price of Rs. 1,450/- per tonne for the 2011-2012 sugarcane season, I ordered a State Advisory Price of Rs. 2,100/- including a transportation charge of Rs. 100/- and a price of Rs. 2,350/- (including transportation charge of Rs. 100) for the 2012-2013 sugarcane season when the Centre had fixed only a price of Rs. 1,700/- per tonne.

Now, for the 2013-2014 sugarcane season, the Central Government has issued orders fixing a price of Rs. 2,100/-.

To protect the interests of sugarcane farmers, I am happy to announce that I have ordered a State Advisory Price that is Rs. 550/- more, including the transportation charge of Rs. 100/- than that of the price fixed by the Central Government. Through this order, sugarcane farmers will get Rs. 2,650/- per tonne. Sugarcane farmers will be happy with this measure of my Government. ■

Chief Minister champions cause of common folk

‘Scrap this heartless hike in price of non-subsidised gas cylinders’

Statement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 2.1.2014 (English Translation)

“The Central Congress coalition Government’s New Year gift is a hike of Rs. 220/- in the price of non-subsidised cooking gas cylinders. This is at a time when it has been inflicting sufferings on people already on a daily basis in several ways such as sky-rocketing prices, ever mounting prices of petroleum products and inflation.

Infliction of such inconsolable sufferings on people is highly condemnable. With the present rise, the price of non-subsidised gas cylinders has been increased for a third time in a month.

“It is an age-old practice and tradition to convey good tidings to people on New Year day. In contravention of this, to present agony as the “New Year gift” to people is not only an unfair blow on the poor but a highly sinful act that no Government has done so far.

“All sections of the people are demanding the removal of the restriction in the supply of subsidised cooking gas cylinders to 9 in a year. In such a situation, to effect an unprecedented increase of Rs. 220/- in the price of non-subsidised cylinders as if to deprive them of an existing facility is nothing but crushing the poor, downtrodden and the middle classes.

“The salaried and the middle classes that incur huge losses every month due to inflation are made to bear this additional burden.

“It is unfair to effect this price rise on gas cylinders on the basis of the international market price. At least the price of petrol and diesel is fixed on the parity price of export and import. But the gas cylinder price is fixed solely on the basis of the import parity price. This price fixation is totally unjust. The price of all petroleum products including petrol and diesel should be fixed on the basis of the indigenous production cost of crude, the price of imported crude and their refining cost. I have stressed this on several occasions. Gas price also should be fixed on the same basis. Had this been done, this price rise could have been averted. Instead, the gas cylinder price has been hiked based solely on the global market price.

“This is unacceptable. In September 2012, when the Central Government fixed the number of gas cylinders for domestic use, the price of non-subsidised gas cylinder was in the range of Rs. 780/-. This was revised upward gradually and now it has reached the level of Rs. 1,234/-. In the 15 months since the restriction on gas cylinders for domestic use came into effect, the price of cooking gas has gone up by 58 per cent.

“Hence, I strongly urge the central government, on behalf of the people to immediately scrap the price increase on non-subsidised cooking gas cylinders, or increase the supply of subsidised cylinders to at least 24 in a year.”

'State and Centre should bear hike in crop insurance scheme'

D.O. Letter dated 5.1.2014
addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"The abrupt and sudden decision of the Government of India to withdraw the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and replace it with the Modified National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) / Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) under the newly introduced National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) from Rabi 2013-2014 without proper consultation with the stakeholders and in particular the States, has come as a rude shock to the farmers. This is particularly so in Tamil Nadu as the State Government helps the farmers by extending a subsidy of 45% -50% on the premium payable besides 50% of the crop loss compensation shareable with the Government of India over and above the premium collected. I am writing this letter to you with a deep sense of anguish and out of concern for the farmers of Tamil Nadu, who will be suddenly subjected to an enormous financial burden due to the steep increase in the crop insurance premium under the new programme.

"As Indian Agriculture is highly vulnerable to the vagaries of the Monsoons, crop insurance is the only weather proofing mechanism available to millions of farmers to mitigate their sufferings in the event of adverse climatic conditions. Therefore, my Government is taking all efforts to encourage more and more farmers to get enrolled under crop insurance for which the State Government extends 45% to 50% premium as subsidy, under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) to all farmers, in addition to the meagre 5% subsidy extended only to Small and Marginal farmers by the Government of India. As a result, the number of farmers insured under NAIS has increased from 1.01 lakh farmers in 2000-2001 to 9.76 lakh farmers in 2012-2013.

"I wish to point out that the National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) has been introduced by the Government of India in a very hasty manner without any consultation with the stakeholders. The administrative instructions on the introduction of NCIP with effect from the current Rabi season were issued by the Government of India only on 1st November, 2013, i.e. one month after the commencement of Rabi 2013-14. The State Governments and the farmers have not been taken into confidence while introducing NCIP. The introduction of the NCIP would increase the burden of premium on the farmers of

Tamil Nadu manifold. NAIS guidelines stipulate premium level of 2% to 3.5% of the sum insured, depending on the season and crop. The Government of Tamil Nadu extends 50% premium subsidy, enabling the farmers to pay only 1% to 1.75% of the sum insured.

"In the new National Crop Insurance Programme the premium payable by the farmers increases to 3.75% and above under MNAIS, and to 4.8% and above under WBCIS. With such high premia, I really doubt whether farmers will come forward to insure their crops and mitigate their risks.

"Farmers of our State are already facing acute hardship due to the severe drought that prevailed during 2012-13 which has further been compounded by the deficit rainfall (-33%) during the North-East Monsoon this year. At this juncture, this steep hike in the premium burden on the farming community will adversely affect agricultural prospects and is totally unacceptable to my Government. **Therefore, I suggest that the additional burden of premium over and above 2% of the sum insured under the National Crop Insurance Programme may be borne equally by the State Government and the Government of India without passing on the burden to the farmers. This will go a long way in encouraging the farmers to adopt crop insurance on a large scale and enable them to mitigate their crop losses and continue their agricultural operations in a sustainable manner**.

"I, therefore, request your personal intervention to take a speedy decision on my suggestion to equally share the increased commitment on premium for the farmers of Tamil Nadu over and above **2%** of the sum insured under NCIP from the current Rabi 2013-14 season onwards."

News in Pictures

His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu **Dr. K. Rosaiah** administered the oath of office to Thiru. R.P. Udayakumar as Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development. The swearing-in ceremony took place at Chennai Raj Bhavan on 11.12.2013. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,** Hon'ble Speaker of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Ministers and Chief Secretary to Government participated.

Chief Minister flays Centre for diesel, petrol price hike

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 3.1.2014 (English Translation)

The prime task of the Central Congress Coalition Government should have been the disciplining of 'sky-rocketing prices' and 'unprecedented inflation'. Instead, its action of raising the price of petrol, diesel and cooking gas frequently that will further push up prices, is like the 'fence eating the crop'; that is, it is akin to those responsible for protecting the interests of the people themselves harming the people.

The Central Congress Coalition Government imposed an unbearable burden on the people by raising the price of diesel by 50 paise per litre from 1.12.2013, the price of cooking gas cylinder by Rs. 3.46 from 10.12.2013, the petrol price by 41 paise per litre and the distribution charges for diesel by 10 paise per litre from 20.12.2013 and the price of non-subsidised gas cylinder by Rs. 220/- from 1.1.2014. From midnight tonight (3.1.2014), it has now increased petrol price by 75 paise a litre and diesel price, through the powers given to oil companies, by 50 paise a litre, citing as usual the rise in the international petrol price, the global economic condition and the slide in the value the Indian rupee. In an unprecedented manner in India, the price of petroleum products has been increased for the 5th time in a month. This anti-people act of the Central Government is nothing but dealing a heavy blow on the poor. The "honour" of contributing to inflation by raising the price of petrol and diesel frequently at a level not done by any Central Government in free India, goes to the nine-year rule of the United Progressive Alliance Government.

Diesel is the life-breath of our country's economic development. Diesel price is intertwined with the price of all commodities. Likewise petrol too is a commodity used by the common man. On account of the present hike in diesel and petrol prices, students using private sector vehicles, office-goers, tourists and two-wheeler users will be made to shoulder the extra burden. Farmers using diesel pumpsets for irrigation and industrial entrepreneurs will be severely affected. As the diesel price increase pushes up the goods transport charges, it will pave the way for the price of all essential commodities, including vegetables and fruits to go up. Above all, Government buses that ply people at low cost will incur additional expenditure and State Transport Corporations will face severe financial constraints.

Though State Transport Corporations will be affected due to the frequent price hike of diesel by the Central Government, my Government is firm not to hike bus fares in the interest of people.

I urge the Central Government to stop the practice of fixing the price of indigenous oil at the same rate as that obtained in international market and to intensify its efforts to explore oil deposits in the country. I strongly reiterate my demand for effecting an immediate change in the price fixing policy of petroleum products. This will avert frequent increase in petroleum products' prices.

The Central Government's raising of the price of petroleum products five times within about a month is a retrograde measure that hampers economic development. I strongly condemn this anti-people act of the Central Government.

I strongly urge the Central Government to immediately withdraw this price rise and the power given to the oil companies to fix the price so that people, who are already reeling under various kinds of tribulations, are not harassed further.

If the Central Government turns a blind eye on this, people will certainly express their seething rage in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Chief Minister inaugurates Paper Pulp unit of TNPL

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated at the Kodanadu Camp Office through video conferencing on 30.12.2013, the Rs.164 crore paper pulp production unit of the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Paper Ltd at Kaagithapuram in Karur District, the Rs. 167 crore power generation unit and the Rs. 88.34 lakh drinking water supply scheme to 4 villages from the paper mills. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open the Rs. 4 crore TNPL Industrial Training Institute and the Emergency and Out Patient Block building constructed at a cost of Rs. 25.06 lakh at the Government Hospital at Velauadhampalayam, Karur District.

The Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Paper Ltd Company (TNPL) has installed at Kagithapuram, machinery at a cost of Rs. 164 crore for erasing the ink from used papers and producing paper pulp. The per day capacity of the machinery is 300 metric tons and this will obviate the need to import 100 tons of wood pulp per day. The machinery which employs modern technology to erase ink in 3 stages and produce paper pulp, is the first of its kind in the whole country.

TNPL has installed a new boiler and genset for raising its power generation from 81.12 MW to 103.62 MW and meeting its factory's power needs 100 per cent from its own indigenous generation. It will have a surplus of 5 MW power which will be sold to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. The installation of the boiler and genset will reduce coal consumption by 2,500 tons a year and water consumption by 10 lakh litres per day.

The drinking water supply to Naanaparappu, Moorthipalayam, Thannasigoundanputhur and Thunduperumalpalayam villages near the paper factory is part of TNPL's efforts to meet its corporate social responsibility. It spends 3 per cent of its profit towards this commitment.

The TNPL Industrial Training Institute trains rural youth in the branches of study for the jobs of Fitter, Electrician, Welding and Instrument Mechanic. Its annual in-take of students is 100.

The Emergency Treatment and Out-Patient Block has come up on a 2,030 sq. ft plot.

Medical infrastructure gets boost in Tamil Nadu

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** declared open through video conferencing from the Kodanadu Camp Office on 30.12.2013 the newly constructed Rs. 45.44 crore Casualty Block building at the Stanley Hospital, Chennai and a Rs. 2.89 crore hostel building in the hospital complex for the girl students of the Nursing School. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open buildings constructed across the State at a cost of Rs. 68.64 crore for Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and New Born Care and Paediatrics Intensive Care units (CEmONC centres and NIC units), Government Hospitals and for Primary Health Centres and distributed laptops to village nurses at no cost.

Motorised boat subsidy for fishermen

The Tamil Nadu Govenment has come out with a subsidy scheme for fishermen building motorised fishing boats capable of using bait and gillnet to catch tuna fish.

The subsidy will be 50 per cent of the boat cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30 lakh.

Tamil Nadu fishermen engaged in full-time fishing can avail themselves of the scheme and benefit either in their individual capacity or in groups with a maximum of 6 persons. Fishermen Co-operative Societies can also participate.

Those desirous of applying for the subsidy can download the application forms from the Fisheries Department's website www.fisheries.tn.gov. without fee. Application forms are also available in the offices of Zonal Fisheries Deputy/Joint Directors and in the office of the Assistant Directors of the Coastal District Fisheries Department.

The filled up applications should reach the Office of the Director of Fisheries Administration Buildings, DMS Complex, Teynampet, Chennai – 600 06 before 5 PM on 10.2.2014.

Details of the scheme can be had from the offices of the Assistant Director concerned or Zonal Deputy/Joint Director of the Fisheries Department.

Loans distributed to encourage entrepreneurs

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa presented at the Kodanadu camp office on 30-12-2013, orders issued by the Bank of India sanctioning loans to 7 beneficiaries, to mark the inauguration of the loan assistance scheme. The scheme, operated through the New Entrepreneur-cum-Enterprise Development Scheme and the schemes of the Tamil Nadu Adi-Dravidar Housing and Urban Development Corporation (TAHDCO) is to benefit 106 persons of Coimbatore and Tiruppur Districts to the tune of Rs. 6 crore.

The New Entrepreneur-cum-Enterprise Development Scheme was launched by the Tamil Nadu Government last year. Targeting first generation entrepreneurs, the scheme helps educated youth establish contact with big industrialists, get entrepreneurial training, evolve commercial projects and prepare to start new enterprises with assistance from financial institutions.

About 1,000 entrepreneurs are trained under the scheme. A capital subsidy of 25 per cent, not exceeding Rs. 25 lakh and loan with a 3 per cent lesser interest rate are given to them. Fifty per cent of the beneficiaries will be women.

TAHDCO is implementing several schemes for the economic development of Adi Dravidars. For promoting entrepreneurship among Adi Dravidars , the State Government is extending a 30 per cent subsidy of the project cost or Rs. 2.25 lakh whichever is less.

The beneficiaries who received the loan sanctioning orders expressed their heart felt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for helping them to come up in life through industrial entrepreneurship.

Pay hike for 80,980 TANGEDCO staff

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 1.1.2014 (English Translation)

My Government is firm on the protection of workers' rights, development of smooth industrial relations, workers getting their due as per law and on the creation of employment opportunities for the youth by starting new industries.

My Government staunchly believes that it should be a forerunner in extending deserving concessions to workers. And it has been doing so for workers in its public sector establishments in time.

I ordered the setting up of a pay revision committee for working out a new wage accord for the workers and officers of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Generation and Distribution Corporation as the earlier agreement had expired on 30.11.2011. The committee was set up on 16.12.2011.

This committee held several rounds of talks with 15 unions. I am happy to announce the following pay hike in the light of the recommendations of the committee and the exchange of views during the talks:-

1. A 7 per cent hike will be effected in the present pay and grade pay of workers and officers in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO).

2. This 7 per cent hike works out to a minimum of Rs. 700/- and a maximum of Rs. 13,160/- increase to every worker in his pay.

3. Those who have put in 10 years of service and more will be given an increment that is 3 per cent hike in their pay.

4. As for the selection grade and special grade employees, their pay increase will be as of the Tamil Nadu Government Employees governed by the G.O. No. 237, Finance Department dated 22.7.2013.

5. Those who have reached the maximum level in the time scale of pay, will be given a 'stagnation increment' every year.

6. The current scale of pay and grade pay will be continued.

7. Present allowances and special pay will be continued.

8. The present 3 per cent annual increment will be continued.

9. Training for those joining duty will be a maximum of one year. During training period, a consolidated pay will be given. The existing conditions will continue for the posts for which the training period is less than one year. After completion of training the time scale of pay will be fixed. This will come into effect from the date of agreement.

10. This pay increase takes effect retrospectively from 1.12.2011. The arrears accruing account of this pay revision for 25 months will be disbursed in 2 instalments, the first in January 2014 and the second in April, 2014.

11. This pay accord will be in force for 4 years from 1.12.2011 to 30.11.2015

A total of 80,980 persons – 70,820 workers and 10,160 officers will benefit out of this pay agreement.

On account of this wage accord, the TANGEDCO will incur an additional expenditure of Rs. 252 crore. The Corporation will meet this from out of its own funds.

Besides improving the livelihood of TANGEDCO employees, this measure will help them discharge their duties with enthusiasm.

Operation theatres to be improved across the state

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has sanctioned Rs.20 crore for improving operation theatres in Government Hospitals across the State so that they can offer high class modern treatment to patients.

The following is the break-up of the allocation:-

Improving 4 operation theatres in Chennai Government General Hospital - Rs. 3 crore; 10 operation theatres in Stanley Hospital, Chennai - Rs.3 crore;8 operation theatres in Madurai Government Rajaji Hospital - Rs. 2.50 crore; 3 operation theatres in Chengalpattu Medical College Hospital – Rs. 1 crore; 2 operation theatres in Thanjavur Medical College Hospital- Rs.1.25 crore; operation theatres in government hospitals at Paramakudi , Thirumangalam, Sankarankoil , Aranthangi ,Tirumayam , Tiruchendur , Pollachi , Arakkonam , Kallakurichi, Coonoor , Mannargudi , Tiruchi , Tiruchengode , Pernambut , Cheyyar and Pennagaram- Rs. 8 crore at the rate of Rs. 50 lakh each.

Further assistance for cine employees

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Amma has made a further allotment of Rs. 11,49,500/- for providing welfare assistance to cine employees.

This was disclosed by the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Special Programme Implementation Thiru. K.T. Rajenthrabhalaji on 26.12.2013 while presiding over the third meeting of the Cine Employees Welfare Board held at the MGR Government film and TV Training Institute Campus.

Thiru. Rajenthrabhalaji said in the first instance Rs. 1,98,000/- welfare assistance was disbursed to 38 beneficiaries and in the second instance Rs. 11,25,000/- was disbursed to 426 beneficiaries.

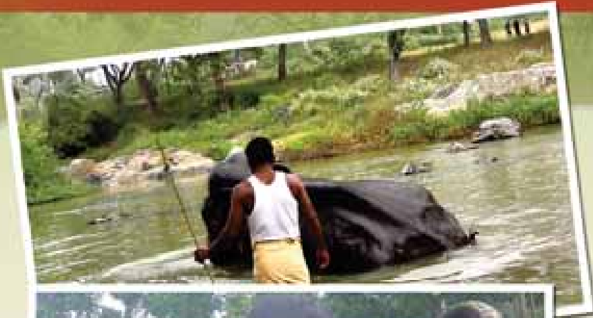
Hon'ble Chief Minister Amma, who has taken a keen interest in the welfare of the cine employees, has not only allotted funds for welfare assistance but has started a new branch of study – animation and visual effects – in the MGR Government Film and TV Training Institute and allotted Rs. 3.69 crore for a new building for this course. The other allotments made by Amma are Rs. 99 lakh for modernising the preview theatre and Rs. 1.83 crore for converting the Selvandar Maligai and the Dubbing Theatre into a film shooting floor. Works are afoot on this now. A new hostel for the students of the college is to come up at a cost of Rs. 2 crore.

The high point of all these, is the laying of foundation by Amma for an auditorium in the Omanduraar Government Estates, Chennai at a cost of Rs. 61 crore and an Information Centre at a cost of Rs. 2 crore.

The Minister lauded the Board's activities and made the assurance that the State Government would act in tune with the views of Board members. He would forward the various demands voiced at the meeting, including increasing the pension and extending insurance cover to Board members, to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and take appropriate action on them. The Minister earlier distributed welfare assistance costing Rs.10.14 lakh to 302 beneficiaries which forms part of the latest allotment of Rs. 11.49 lakh.

Dr. M. Rajaram IAS, Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department was present. Thiru. J. Kumaragurubaran IAS, Director of Information and Member Secretary of the Welfare Board welcomed the gathering.

Forest Department jumbos also to join camp



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered that the 'Special Welfare Camp' facility annually provided to Hindu temple and mutt elephants should be extended to elephants under the control of the Forest Department also.

Accordingly, 55 elephants under the control of the Forest Department will join the 43 elephants belonging to temples and mutts in this year's 'Special Welfare Camp' for elephants being held from December 19, 2013 to February 4, 2014 on the Bhavani Riverbed adjacent to Arulmigu Vanabadra Kali Amman Temple in Thekkampatti, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs.1.53 Crores for this Camp. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed the inclusion of 2 more elephants in the Camp, "Lakshmi" belonging to the Arulmigu Manakkula Vinayakar Devasthanam under the control of Puducherry State Hindu Religious and Endowment Department and Wakf Board and another 'Fatima Beevi' belonging to Nagore Dargha following a request from the Puducherry Government and the Administrative Trustee of Nagore Dargha respectively. Hence 100 elephants will participate in this year's camp.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also directed that the elephants that are sick and those that are reluctant to stir out should not be forced to the camp, but be provided food and medical facilities in their respective places as is done in the camp.

The camps for the elephants are being held from the year 2003 after it was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister that they were abused, treated cruelly, not given enough rest, made to stand on uneven hard floor and were not properly maintained. In 2003, 55 elephants participated in a 30-day camp, in 2004, 65 participated in a 48 day camp and in 2005, 63 elephants took part in a 48-day camp at the Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary. The scheme was applauded by all and its effects were also felt in society.

From 2006 to 2011, the camps were not held. In 2011-2012, an "Elephants Special Welfare Camp" was held at the Mudumalai Sanctuary (Theppakaadu) for 37 elephants for 48 days and in 2012-2013, a camp was held on the Bhavani riverbed adjacent to the Arulmigu Vanabadra Kali Amman Temple in Thekkampatti in Coimbatore District for 35 elephants for 48 days.

Seven lakh power saving lamps for hut dwellers

Chief Minister opens 50 power sub stations across state

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open through video conferencing at the Kodanadu Camp Office on 30-12-2013, 50 power sub stations set up at a cost of Rs. 509.88 crore, commissioned a solar photovoltaic plant of 60 kilo watt installed on the roof-top of the Headquarters building of the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation at Chennai at a cost of Rs. 55.80 lakh and inaugurated the scheme for distribution of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) to 7 lakh slum dwellers at no cost.

The sub stations include two 230-kilo volt (KV) sub stations, twenty nine 110-KV sub stations and nineteen 33 KV sub stations including the one at Mahatma Gandhi Nagar in Madurai city(Rs. 4.77 crore).

The solar photovoltaic plant can generate one lakh units of power in the year. After meeting a part of the daily energy needs of the TANGEDCO Headquarters office, the surplus power will be made over to the State Grid.

The Tamil Nadu Government announced that CFL lamps would be distributed to the 14.62 lakh hut dwellers in Tamil Nadu to encourage conservation of power consumption. As the cost of the lamps in the market is high, they are distributed at no cost to the hut dwellers. In the first phase, 7 lakh electricity consumers in huts will be covered. They will be given 9-watt CFL lamps at no cost. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 8.77 crore. By way of marking the inauguration of the scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed the lamps to 7 beneficiaries.

Totally, Rs. 519.21 crore worth of power-related schemes were commissioned by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Software and language labs for ITI students

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed the setting up of Language and Software Laboratories in all the Industrial Training Institutes in the State to improve the infrastructure for imparting skills to students in language, computer and software.

Skill development in these subjects has been included in the curriculum of all disciplines taught in the ITIs with a view to improve the intellectual efficiency of students who are mostly drawn from the economically weaker sections of the society.

For these laboratories, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered construction of new buildings wherever necessary, supply of computers and software and posting of instructors.

In the first phase, these laboratories will be set up in 35 ITIs- Nagalapuram, Chekkanoorani, Andipatti (women), Arakkonam, Dindugal (women), Pudukkottai, Tiruppur, Mettur, Dharmapuri, Ariyalur, Tiruchendur, Coonoor, Virudhunagar, Vellore, Dindigul, Dharapuram, Hosur, Thanjavur, Nagercoil, North Chennai, Ambattur, Guindy, Chengalpattu, Madurai, Comibatore, Salem, Tiruchi, Cuddalore , Karur (women), Cuddalore(women), Veppalodai, Radhapuram, Aruppukottai , Thiruvaiyaru and Bodi.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs.7,16,42,000/- towards renovation and electrical connections for these laboratories (Rs. 32.50 lakh), creation of infrastructure (Rs. 5.72 crore), salary of instructors (Rs.105 crore) and towards monthly fees for internet connection(Rs. 6.30 lakh). Sanction has also been accorded for appointing 44 instructors on a contract basis for these laboratories.

Pennycuick bus stand at Theni opened

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open on 30.12.2013 through video conferencing at the Kodanadu Camp Office, the Rs. 15.25 crore Col. John Pennycuick bus stand in Theni Allinagaram Municipality in Theni District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated water supply schemes and an underground sewerage scheme, costing Rs. 64.47 crore, declared open buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 19.56 crore and laid the foundation for buildings estimated to cost Rs. 18.74 crore.

The Col. John Pennycuick bus stand is located on a 7.35 acre area and has a capacity to operate 59 buses. Other facilities available at the bus stand are eateries, shops, passenger waiting room, cloak room, modern toilet, reservation centres, reception cum enquiry centre, police control room, room for drivers to rest and public relations officer room.

The water supply schemes inaugurated are: one in Tiruvannamalai Municipality (Rs. 36.66 crore), and in Panruti Municipality (Rs.3.20 crore); the combined drinking water supply schemes executed by the Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board (TWAD) for 40 habitats in Chengam-Pudupalayam Panchayat Unions in Tiruvannamalai District to benefit 20,314 persons (Rs. 1.32 crore), 18 habitats in Kuthalam Union, Nagapattinam District to benefit 14,547 persons (Rs. 3.45 crore), 10 water-supply development works implemented in 9 Town Panchayats in 6 Districts (Rs. 2.78 crore) and the Underground Sewerage System in Kancheepuram Municipality (Rs. 17.06 crore).

The buildings declared open are: office building in Tiruvathipuram Municipality, Tiruvannamalai District (Rs. 1 crore), office building in Tiruchengode Municipality, Namakkal District (Rs. 2.50 crore), 22 office buildings in 22 Town Panchayats in 17 Districts (Rs. 7.08 crore), 41 sanitary complexes in 34 Town Panchayats in 11 Districts (Rs. 4.96 crore), commercial complex in Nannilam Town Panchayat, Tiruvarur District (Rs. 17 lakh), Community Halls in Kaveripattinam and Kuthalam Town Panchayat (Rs. 60 lakh), parks and modern abattoirs in 5 Town Panchayats in 4 Districts (Rs. 90 lakh), and a bridge constructed in Genguvarpatti Town Panchayat in Theni District (Rs. 1.50 crore).

Foundation stones were laid for office buildings in Salem Corporation (Rs. 7 crore), Chidambaram Municipality, Cuddalore District (Rs.2.50 crore) and Hosur Municipality, Krishnagiri District (Rs. 6 crore); and for a bus stand in Punjaipuliampatti Municipality, Erode District and a bus stand in Sivakasi Municipality, Virudhunagar District.

Test Tracks for drivers to be computerised

The Tamil Nadu Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa has taken a decision to convert all the 42 Transport Driver's Test Tracks into computerized ones for precision assessment of skills before issuing driving licence.

At present, 38 test tracks are in operation in own buildings attached to 137 offices in the Transport Department. In 4 more offices work on laying the Test Tracks is about to be completed.

In the first phase, the computerization is to take place in 14 Regional Transport Offices. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also allotted Rs.10 crore in this connection. The 14 offices to have the computerized Test Tracks are: Tiruvannamalai, Namakkal (North), Cuddalore, Salem (West), Dindigul, Tiruchi (West), Karur, Erode, Madurai (North), Virudhunagar, Comibatore (Central), Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri and Sankagiri. The remaining Tracks will be computerized in stages.

When candidates are tested through computerized test tracks, the results will be recorded through computer graphs and driving licences will be issued on the basis of merit. This will result in turning out efficient drivers and consequently in reducing road accidents to a large extent. ■

Netaji, fearless fighter for freedom

('Netaji' Subhas Chandra Bose, who raised an army and fought the British with the help of the Axis powers, was born on January 23, 1897)

From his early boyhood when Subhas Chandra Bose journeyed alone to the Himalayas in search of personal salvation, up to the years of his mature manhood when he travelled to distant lands in search of national salvation, his life was all of one pattern: the life of a Grand Rebel whom the pathetic subjection of this ancient land turned into an uncompromising political revolutionary. He was not a mere political; he regarded his life as a complete dedication to a sublime Cause rooted in spiritual reality. This was clearly brought out in the title "An Indian Pilgrim" which he had adopted for his unfinished autobiography. His unwavering faith in God, a rare quality which he had in common with Mahatma Gandhi, impressed everyone who came into close contact with him. While Chittaranjan Das was his political guru, his spiritual mentor was Swami Vivekananda.

...When the opportune moment arrived, he organised the Indian National Army, and led it into battle against the British Empire in India. Not infrequently described as the 'stormy petrel' of Indian politics, his meteoric career showed that he was in his element during times of stress and strain, crisis and upheaval. He throve on opposition which evoked all that was best in him. He rode the whirlwind and directed the storm.

(*Excerpt from the reminiscences of Hari Vishnu Kamath who resigned from the ICS and joined the Forward Bloc. He was a member of the Constituent Assembly*) ■

Prime Minister's Intervention sought for release of 256 fishermen

D.O. letter dated 30.12.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I write this letter with a deep sense of anguish that close on the heels of the unethical, illegal and inhuman arrest of 111 innocent Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu along with their 15 fishing boats on 12.12.2013, the Sri Lankan Navy has yet again apprehended 22 fishermen from Pudukottai District along with their 6 fishing boats on the night of 28.12.2013. On the night of 29.12.2013, 18 fishermen of Pamban, Ramanathapuram District, with their 3 motorised "Vallams" were apprehended. With this, there have been six incidents of apprehension by the Sri Lankan Navy during the month of December, 2013, and these repeated abductions and detentions have sent shock waves throughout the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu.

"Six Mechanized Fishing Boats bearing Registration Nos.IND-TN-08-MM-0172, IND-TN-08-MM-0206, IND-TN-08-MM 0008, IND-TN-10-MM-0640, IND-TN-10-MM-0956, IND-PY-PK-MM-0170 which went for fishing on 28.12.2013 from Kottaipattinam and Jagadapattinam fishing bases of Pudukottai District with 22 fishermen on board have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on the night of 28.12.2013 and they have been remanded up to 10.01.2014. In yet another incident 3 motorised "Vallams" bearing Registration Nos. IND-TN-10-MO-1712, IND-TN-10-MO-1622 and IND-TN-10-MO-1659 with 18 fishermen who set out for fishing from Pamban fishing base in Ramanathapuram District on 29.12.2013 morning have also been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on the night of 29.12.2013.

"The right of livelihood of our fishermen to fish in their traditional waters of the Palk Bay to which they have a historic claim is being infringed upon repeatedly and effectively abrogated by Sri Lanka. This is caused in no small measure due to the Government of India having entered into an ill-advised agreement which ceded the islet of Katchatheevu, historically part of India's territory and undisputedly an integral part of India.

"Unabated, brutal, unprovoked attacks and instances of opening of fire on our innocent fishermen have been carried out by the marauding Sri Lankan Navy despite several joint statements and declarations by both the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka to desist from such activities. The meek and weak response from the Government

of India to the repeated instances of abduction and attacks on our fishermen in their traditional waters has emboldened the Sri Lankan Navy to act brutally against our innocent fishermen.

"In order to put an end to the systematic violence unleashed by the Sri Lankan Navy and to decisively impress upon the Government of Sri Lanka that the Government of India would not tolerate such acts of brutality by the Sri Lankan Navy on our innocent fishermen, I had exhorted you in my previous letters to summon the Sri Lankan High Commissioner at New Delhi through the Ministry of External Affairs and register the strongest disapproval of the belligerent actions of the Sri Lankan Navy and also to take up this issue personally at the highest level to put an end to the continued atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan Navy by way of illegal arrest, detention of our innocent fishermen and impounding of their fishing boats.

"In my letter dated 20.9.2013 I had stated that "while the non-conducive atmosphere created by the actions of the Sri Lankan Government continues, as witnessed by recurrent instances of violent attacks on and abductions of our fishermen on the high seas in the Palk Bay, seizure and destruction of boats and fishing equipment by the Sri Lankan Navy and prolonged detention of scores of poor fishermen from Tamil Nadu in Sri Lankan jails, our fishermen, in an accommodative frame of mind, are eager to sort out the day to day issues faced by them by engaging in talks with the fishermen from Sri Lanka. Even though the situation is tense in the coastal districts of the Tamil Nadu because of the continued imprisonment of our fishermen, the Fishermen Associations have represented to the State Government to facilitate the bilateral fishermen level talks and they have requested me to fix the venue and time for such a meeting".

"In view of the sentiments and desire of the Fishermen Associations of Tamil Nadu to have such talks, and in the interest of keeping a channel of communication open between the **fishermen communities of both countries, the Government of Tamil Nadu vide its letter No.19309/FS6/2013, dated 23.12.2013 has already proposed that arrangements may be made to have the next round of talks between the fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu and their counterparts in Sri Lanka at Chennai on 20.01.2014. The agenda and the list of participants for the meeting have already been sent to the Government of India**. It has been reported in the media that the Government of India is agreeable to the date communicated by the Government of Tamil Nadu. However, we are awaiting a formal confirmation from the Government of India.

"It is unfortunate that in a situation where the Government of Tamil Nadu is taking a conciliatory approach and helping to facilitate fishermen level talks, the instances of attack on and abduction of our fishermen continue unabated. The continuance of such attacks and abductions will not make for a congenial atmosphere for any meaningful talks even at the level of fishermen associations of the two countries. Hence, I would like to re-iterate that the Government of India must take a strong line and prevail upon the Sri Lankan Government to end such unprovoked attacks and arrests.

"I wish to remind you that 216 fishermen who have been incarcerated in Sri Lankan Jails for months together are yet to be released by the Sri Lankan Government, while 72 fishing boats of our fishermen are still under Sri Lankan custody and are in danger of being reduced to unusable junk. May I once again urge your personal intervention and exhort you to use the diplomatic channels of the Government of India in a concrete and decisive manner with the Sri Lankan authorities to secure the immediate release of 256 Indian fishermen who are languishing in Sri Lankan Jails for prolonged periods including the 40 fishermen apprehended on 28.12.2013 and 29.12.2013 and their 81 fishing boats from Sri Lankan custody at the earliest?"

Puratchi Thalaivar shows the way

The blessed journey of Puratchi Thalaivar continues for ever. The life-giving Mantra of 'MGR', the ideals of that immortal hero of history continue to give us leadership and show us the way.

Numberless are the achievements of Puratchi Thalaivar in the world of cinema. Even more numerous are his achievements in politics.

India has seen innumerable political leaders. But very few are the great men who combine intellectual acumen with a compassionate heart. Among such great men, Mahatma Gandhi, Arignar Anna and our Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar stand foremost.

Even among them, our Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar shines as the peak of human compassion. It is because of this that even today the world regards him as one in a thousand, a rare gem.

Our eyes grow moist in sadness even today when we think that the man who fed a million people did not have a handful of cooked rice to ward away his own hunger in his youth.

** *** ****

Perarignar Anna said that the money the people pay as taxes must be used only for the welfare of the people.

''The benefits of various schemes must reach the people for whom they are intended,'' said Puratchi Thalaivar.

Everyday, all the schemes we implement are consonant with the Kural which gives us the vision of the ideal state that is free from hunger, disease and the danger posed by enemies. All our thoughts and deeds are hitched to the aim of making Puratchi Thalaivar's dream of a golden reign a reality.

It is not that Puratchi Thalaivar emerged victorious over his political adversaries only. He vanquished disease, he made death turn back, he defeated his political foes, he conquered the scourge of hunger.

We have made it known to the world that we are the great heirs of that triumphant champion; that we are the flowers that have bloomed in the heart of that illustrious Puratchi Thalaivar.

We will drive away from our dear Tamil Nadu the darkness of poverty, the blot of privation, the curse of ignorance, the blight of penury for ever. We are aliens to the culture of violence. If our political foes and our neighbouring states use it against us, we will face it with discipline.

We have the confidence that our forces are bound to win. We always have the blessings and grace of Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar. We have the conviction that he lives, and that he lives with us.

Making a reservoir of that feeling in our hearts, let us continue our sacred journey. To protect the name and fame of that valiant hero of history, let us blow the conch of victory. Let us take the pledge this day, that we will nurture a prosperous and plentiful Tamil Nadu and that we will protect the Tamil race!

(*From the speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,* **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, *delivered on 17.1.1992, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR*).

Incentives given to milk producers, Co-op societies

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa presented at the Secretariat on 9.12.2013, cheques to 7 milk producers and society representatives as a token of distributing incentives and incentives with star status to milk producers and incentives with star status to 170 milk producers co-operative societies.

The incentive of Rs. 39.17 crore is for 2,11,742 milk producers belonging to the District Milk Producers Co-operative Unions of Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem, Vellore, Erode and Kanniyakumari Districts which have improved their incomes; the incentive of Rs. 1.02 crore with star status is for 5,100 milk producers from 17 District Co-operative Milk Producers Unions; and the incentive with star status for milk co-operative societies is Rs. 14.45 lakh for their best performance.

The following is the break up of the incentives distributed (the performance is for the year 2012-2013):-.

* Coimbatore District Co-operative Milk Producers Union- Profit earned Rs. 24.44 crore – incentive beneficiaries 21,921 – incentive amount Rs. 7.34 crore at the rate of Re. 1/- per litre; Madurai District Union – profit earned Rs. 20.64 crore – beneficiaries 32,928 – amount Rs. 9.41 crore at the rate of Rs. 1.60 paise per litre;
* Salem District Union – profit earned Rs. 16.36 crore – beneficiaries 52,750 – amount Rs. 8.14 crore at the rate of 60 paise per litre;
* Vellore District Union – profit earned Rs. 12.99 crore – beneficiaries 49,571 – amount Rs. 9.93 crore at the rate of Re.1/- per litre;
* Erode District Union – profit earned Rs.7.22 crore – beneficiaries 49,828 – amount Rs. 4.20 crore at the rate of 60 paise per litre.
* Kanniyakumari District Union – profit earned Rs. 1 crore – beneficiaries 4,744 – amount Rs. 15 lakh at the rate of 60 paise per litre.

The 5,100 milk Producers, selected from 17 District Co-operative Milk producers Unions at the rate of 300 from each for the award of incentives with star status, have been categorised as winners of first, second and third prize in equal numbers (1,700 each) and are awarded respectively Rs. 3,000/-, Rs. 2,000/- and Rs. 1,000/- each taking the total incentive amount to Rs. 1.02 crore.

As for the milk producers co-operative societies, 170 have been selected for their best performance in maintaining uninterrupted supply of milk to the Milk Producers Co-operative Unions. Of them 51 have been selected for the first, second and 3rd prizes (17 each) and awarded Rs. 25,000/-, Rs. 15,000/- and Rs. 10,000/- respectively. The remaining 119 societies have been awarded Rs. 5,000/- each taking the total incentive amount to Rs. 14.45 lakh.

The last two categories of incentive awards with star status is a follow-up of the announcement the Hon'ble Chief Minister made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 17.4.2013.

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** inaugurated the scheme to distribute Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs to hutment dwellers with power connections at the Kodanadu camp office on 30.12. 2013.

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